MARY CECIL CANRTILL #5 HOUSE
North Mulberry-Oregon Street Neighborhood
216 Oregon Street
Georgetown
Scott County
Kentucky

HABS No. KY-217

HABS
KY-217

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
SOUTHEAST REGIONAL OFFICE
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
100 Alabama St. NW
Atlanta, GA 30303

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

MARY CECIL CANTRILL #5 HOUSE **HABS No. KY-217**

North Mulberry/Oregon Street Neighborhood

Location: 216 Oregon Street
Georgetown, Kentucky
Scott county, Kentucky

U.S.G.S. topographic quadrangle: Georgetown (7.5)
Universal Transverse Mercator coordinates:
16.712740.4231600

Present Owner: Georgetown Urban Renewal and Community Development Agency

Present Occupant: vacant

Present Use: none (scheduled for demolition)

Statement of Significance: The Cantrill #5 house represents a type of residence built for late 19th-early 20th century African-American working-class tenants. It is significant for its role as a residential subtype (double shed-roofed shotgun plan) typical of African-American housing after the Civil War. Intended for two households, it represents a solution to the housing needs of a growing African-American urban population during the turn of the 20th century in Georgetown, Kentucky.

PART I: HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Date of erection: circa 1895-1901 (not shown on 1895 Sanborn insurance map; present on 1901 insurance map).

2. Architect/Builder: unknown; building construction authorized by Mary Cecil Cantrill.

3. Original and subsequent owners:
1892 deed, October 27, 1892, recorded in Volume 27, p. 467, D. L. Moore to Mary C. Cantrill.
1903 deed, January 1, 1903, recorded in Volume 35, p. 340, James E. and Mary C. Cantrill to George V. Payne, Trustee of Mary C. Cantrill.
1925 deed, November 16, 1925, recorded in Volume 54, p. 597, W. R. Hall et al. to Trustees, Wesley Chapel M. E. Church.
1929 deed, December 28, 1929, recorded in Volume 58, p. 131, Trustees, Wesley Chapel M.E. Church to E. B. and Bettie W. Davis.
1946 deed, August 17, 1946, recorded in Volume 72, p. 351, Betty W. Davis et al. to Cecil and Mamie Scott.
1990 deed, August 31, 1990, recorded in Volume 186, p. 222, Cecil Scott to Georgetown Urban Renewal and Community Development Agency.

4. Alterations and additions: none

B. Historical Context: The Cantrill #5 house was built during the late 19th-early 20th century when the nature of African-American housing was in a state of flux in Georgetown. With the movement of greater numbers of African-Americans from rural areas into town and the deterioration of hastily built, post-Civil War housing units, many new house were built to supply a growing urban population. This spurt in new construction gave rise to more small neighborhoods, tucked into alleyways and along secondary streets, that were occupied exclusively by African-American citizens. Many of these housing units, like this house, were intended for occupancy by more than one household and were frequently owned by white landlords.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement: The Cantrill #5 house is classified under the property subtype of a shed-roofed double shotgun house. It is a one story, frame, clapboard sided, vernacular, four-bay (window-door-door-window) residence with a front parapet and shed roof. The building rests on a dry-laid, random coursed, rough

limestone foundation and has a two-bay shed porch. It was intended for dual occupancy. The front porch shelters two doors, each leading into equal-sized halves of the house that served as two separate apartments.

1. Architectural character: This house merits recording because it represents an important subtype of the shotgun style, and because it fulfilled an important role in providing housing for working-class African-American families around the turn of the 20th century.

2. Condition of fabric: fair, but rapidly deteriorating since it became vacant.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: 26' 8" by 29' 6", excluding porch.

2. Foundations: dry laid, randomly coursed rough limestone.

3. Walls: sawn board, dimensional lumber.

4. Structural system, framing: presumed to be balloon framing.

5. Porches, stoops, balconies, bulkheads: The house has a small porch (12' 7" by 5' 10") with a shed roof, balusters and square posts, sheltering two front doors. The porch foundation is concrete block with a built-in storage door.

6. Chimneys: one central brick chimney.

7. Openings: (By elevation)
The front (north) elevation is divided into four regular bays featuring two 2/2 vertically divided sash windows and two 1/2 light panelled doors. The two-bay porch is built on a raised concrete block foundation with steps leading from the east side.

The east and west sides of the building are within two-four feet of the neighboring houses. These elevations and the rear are partially or wholly covered with brick-patterned asbestos siding.

8. Roof: shed type; covering unidentified.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: The house was originally built as two apartments, each consisting of two rooms connected by a door. The front room in east apartment measures 12' 7" by 15' 9"; the

rear room in the east apartment measures 12' 7" by 12' 5"; a small bathroom (5' 5" by 7' 4") was added to the southeast corner of the front room at later time, probably when the house was occupied by single households. The front room of the west apartment measures 12' 9" by 15' 9"; the rear room measures 12' 9" by 12' 5". The interior of this house has been completely gutted.

D. Site

1. General setting and orientation: The house is located on the south side of Oregon Street, and fronts north.

2. Historic landscape design: none

3. Outbuildings: none

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Original architectural drawings: none

B. Early views: none

C. Interviews: none

D. Bibliography

1. Primary and unpublished sources: Scott county deed books and circuit court records (see Section I.3); Ann Bolton Bevins, 1989, INVOLVEMENT OF BLACKS IN SCOTT COUNTY COMMERCE DURING THE POSTBELLUM PERIOD (1865-1918). Manuscript on file, Kentucky Heritage Council, Frankfort, Kentucky.

2. Secondary and published sources: none known

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

The HABS documentation of this and other buildings is being performed to comply with the requirements of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the City of Georgetown and the Kentucky Heritage Council. The City of Georgetown received a CDBG grant to acquire these buildings in order to demolish them, owing to their poor condition and because they are unsuitable for rehabilitation and reuse. The MOA required that the structures be documented according to HABS criteria and accepted by HABS prior to demolition.

The following people and firms contributed to the documentation effort:

Charlie Perkins, City Attorney, Georgetown, Kentucky

John Coyle, Georgetown Housing Authority
William Hamilton, Mayor's Office, Georgetown, Kentucky
Will Linder & Associates, Consultants, Inc., Berea, Kentucky
Chris Amos, architectural historian, Amos & Burry, Inc., Shelbyville, Kentucky
Ann Bolton Bevins, architectural historian, Georgetown, Kentucky

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Title: Research Associate in Anthropology
Affiliation: University of Kentucky, Lexington
Date: November 15, 1991

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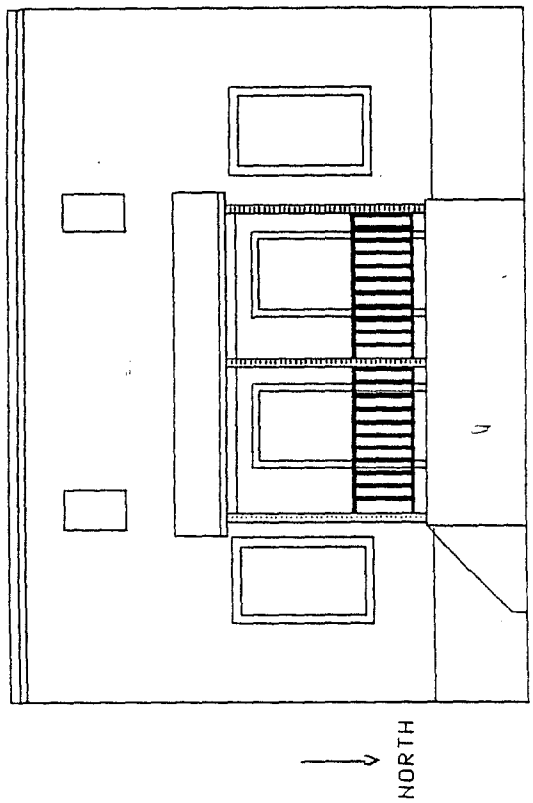
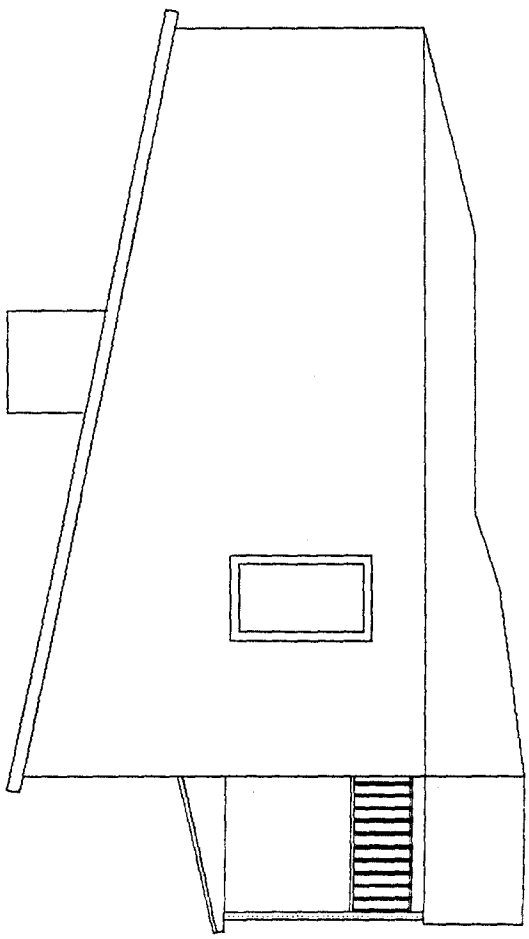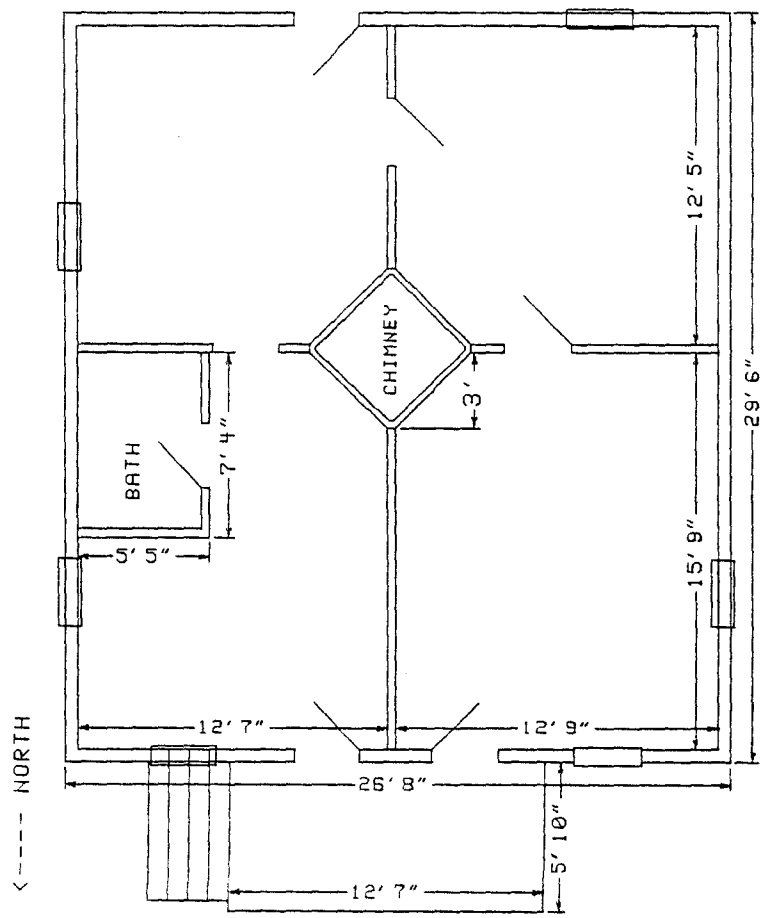
216 OREGON
GEORGETOWN
JUNE 24, 1991
SCALE — = 1' = 5' = 10'