

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUL 17 1975
DATE ENTERED	SEP 18 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Science Hill School

AND/OR COMMON

Science Hill Inn; Wakefield-Scarce Antique Gallery

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Washington Street

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN

Shelbyville

— VICINITY OF

Sixth

STATE

Kentucky

CODE

021

COUNTY

Shelby

CODE

211

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

M. J. Scarce

STREET & NUMBER

Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Shelbyville

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Shelby County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Main St.

CITY, TOWN

Shelbyville

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

401 Wapping Street Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Science Hill School is an imposing block of connecting buildings located on the north side of Washington Street just north of the civic and commercial center of Shelbyville, Kentucky. Shelbyville is the county seat of wealthy Shelby County, which is located between Louisville, the urban center of Kentucky; Frankfort, the capital; and Lexington beyond. The school is shaded by large trees which preserve a sense of the original setting of the school. The ground slopes off behind into woods surrounding a now little-used spur of the L & N Railroad line that defines the northern boundary of the town adjacent to its original line of demarcation, the bend of Clear Creek.

The original school structure was an early eight-room, two-story brick house which was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Tevis in 1825 (see sketch 1, A). The brick was laid in Flemish bond with jack arches over the windows. The front entrance was centered and opened onto a center hall with a stairway on the right. There was a parlor on the right and a library on the left (where Science Hill School was started) (see photo 2). Behind the library was a bedroom, which is the only room that now retains the original woodwork. It has the original wide ash floors and reeded door and window facings. The mantel is of a simple Federal style. The rest of the house was remodeled during the Greek Revival period. The rooms have high baseboards and "Greek Ear" moldings around the doors and windows.

When the Poynters moved into the house in 1880 they added a hall and two rooms to the north side of the original house (see sketch 1, G). They also moved the stairway to the left side of the hall and opened up the back wall of the entrance hall, to incorporate a back hall (see photo 3). Mrs. Poynter also replaced the original front door entrance with side-lights and transom of leaded glass.

In 1826 the Tevises had added a wing for the school extending east from the back of their house and parallel to Washington Street (see sketch 1, B). Downstairs was the chapel and above the dormitory in which the pupils and teachers roomed together. The structure had an outside stairway and was connected to the residence by flagstone walks. Later a structure similar in size and number of rooms was constructed on the north side parallel to the first addition (see sketch 1, C). Next the dining room, pantries, and kitchen were added extending north between the back of the house and the second dormitory building (see photo 4 and sketch 1, E). This addition was completed in 1860. A year later a courtyard, formed by the wings surrounding it, was enclosed, making a long, narrow, and high indoor court. The court has three outside entrances with a gallery connecting the second floor rooms. Slender chamfered posts support the gallery and dentilated molding above. Identical stairways, located at the east end of the court on the left and right, lead to the gallery, connecting the second floor rooms. In the east wall of the court is a double door, centered under an arch, with side-lights and transom, which opened into the chapel. In the center of the courtyard roof is an octagonal cupola whose large windows let in floods of light (see photo 5, and sketch 1, F).

(Continued)

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES Before 1825; 1825-60; 1880 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Mr. and Mrs. John Tevis
Dr. and Mrs. W. T. Poynter

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Science Hill was one of the first Protestant female academies west of the Alleghenies. This fine preparatory school, founded in 1825 by Julia Tevis, drew students from all over the country but principally from the Southern States. Up until 1939 when the school closed its doors, it was the oldest Protestant female academy in the State and in the country. The structure, a rambling series of Greek Revival blocks connected by inner and outer courtyards, is now utilized as a restaurant and antique gallery of considerable renown, which continue to draw clientele from far beyond the rich agricultural county seat in which Science Hill is located.

Julia A. Tevis, the wife of the Reverend John Tevis, a Methodist minister, opened Science Hill School in March 1825, and served as principal until her death in 1880. Science Hill derived its name from Mrs. Tevis' belief that young ladies of that time were as capable of mastering the sciences as were young men. The school was based on the Lancastrian system, a monitorial mode of instruction in which advanced students taught pupils below them. It was characterized by general order and strict discipline (the method was first introduced in England in 1803 by the Quaker Joseph Lancaster and then to the United States about 1814). Private academies were very important in the South in the 19th century, for they provided the major means of education for children of the wealthy. Most Southern aristocrats were interested in their daughters being taught the "ornamentals"--French, playing the piano, singing, drawing, and painting. But they were also eager for them to be instructed in Latin, mathematics, and algebra. Science Hill School offered this kind of diverse curriculum to its students.

Julia Tevis, originally Julia Hieronymous, was born in Clark County on the eastern edge of the Bluegrass area of Kentucky in 1799, her grandparents having been among the earliest immigrants to Kentucky. Shortly after her birth her family moved to Winchester, Virginia, where she attended a good female academy. Upon graduation she obtained a teaching job in Wytheville, Virginia. In 1824 she married John Tevis, a Methodist preacher and circuit rider from Shelby County, Kentucky. In Shelbyville, the Tevises established the first Protestant girls' school in the county and in the State. At the time there were several Catholic schools located in Shelbyville and it was felt a school for Protestant girls was needed. Shelbyville was an ideal location for a school because of its accessibility. It is situated between Louisville, Frankfort, and Lexington. The Louisville-Lexington Turnpike intersected Shelbyville and the Louisville and Nashville and the Cumberland and Ohio railroads passed through the town. Mrs. Tevis describes the school and Shelbyville in her book, Sixty Years in a School Room (1878), "Our house, standing on the brow of a green and goodly hill, in view of a wide open

(Continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Hardin, Bayless. The American Guide to Shelby County. 1933.
 Tevis, Julia A. Sixty Years in a School Room: An Autobiography of Mrs. Julia A. Tevis. Cincinnati: Western Methodist Book Concern, 1878.

(Continued)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 5 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,6	65,610,0	4,230,700	B	1,6	65,610,0	4,230,620
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1,6	65,596,0	4,230,630	D	1,6	65,596,0	4,230,730
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

UTM REF WM 9-29-75
 Zone 16
 E 656040
 N 4200660

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

Mary Cronan

June, 1975

ORGANIZATION

Kentucky Heritage Commission

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

401 Wapping Street

TELEPHONE

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Eduard W. Meitner

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 7-14-75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

John W. Rogers
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 ATTEST: *[Signature]*
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 9/18/75

DATE SEP 16 1975

Acting

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Science Hill School

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 2

An exterior courtyard, now a charming garden, also resulted between the northern extensions. An open porch, with wooden Doric columns, connects the residence on the west and the central indoor court (see sketch 1). The eastern block--now the well-known Wakefield-Scarce Antique Gallery--has a one-story Doric porch at the entrance.

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Science Hill School

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

country on the north, presented a scene of great beauty. South of us was the dear quaint little town, near enough to contribute all its conveniences and yet so shut out as to leave us free of the annoyance of public gatherings on court days... Cheerfulness is, perhaps the word that best describes the appearance of the sunny little village -- clean, airy, orderly and comfortable, amply compensating for whatever want of modern elegance modish luxury might be observed." (p.20)

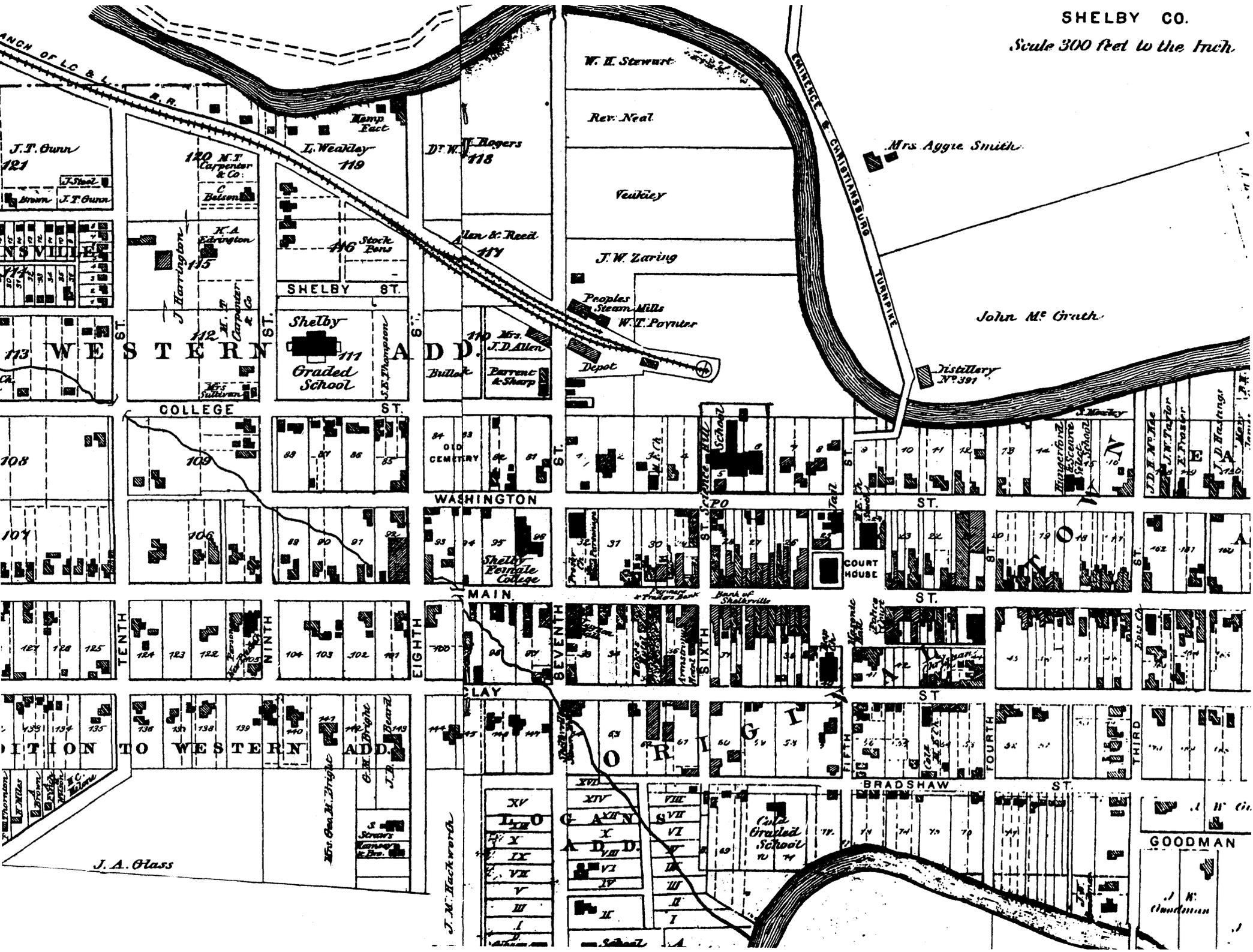
At the first session of the school there were twenty students enrolled including four boarders. Many girls from the South and Midwest came up the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers. Science Hill experienced rapid growth, however. In her autobiography, Mrs. Tevis recalls: "Every vacation we found it necessary to improve and extend our buildings, for each succeeding term our boarders increased." (p.356) By 1857, 230 students were enrolled. During the Civil War the school remained open and about thirty girls stayed continuously at the school for three to five years, since it was impossible for them to return to their homes in the deep South.

Mr. Tevis died in 1861. Mrs. Tevis continued to control and manage the school until her death in 1880. At this time the school became the property of Dr. Wiley Taul Poynter of the Methodist-Episcopal Church. W.T. Poynter was born in 1838 in Mt. Sterling, Kentucky, and attended the famous B.B. Sayre School in Frankfort, Kentucky, and the Emory and Henry College in Virginia. Dr. Poynter was living in Carrollton, Kentucky and acting as pastor of the Carrollton Methodist Church before coming to Science Hill.

Dr. Poynter devoted himself to upgrading and adjusting the school's curriculum to modern standards. These course changes enabled students to meet the requirements for admission to the outstanding colleges for women throughout the country, principally Vassar and Wellesley, making it one of the outstanding preparatory schools in the South. Under both the Tevis and Poynter administrations emphasis was placed on character and religious training as well as on scholarship. Competition was never the motivating force in academics or sports, rather full development of the mind and body. At Dr. Poynter's death in 1896 the school continued operation under his widow and daughters, Julia and Harriet.

In 1939 the Poynter sisters closed the school permanently. They continued to live in the original house and rented out a few of the dormitory rooms for apartments. The property was purchased in the early 1950's by Mr. Mark J. Scarce. The old school dining room is now operated as a restaurant and the school chapel serves effectively as Wakefield-Scarce Antique Gallery.

The school remains in much the original condition. About twenty persons live in the old dormitory rooms and apartments. Miss Harriet Poynter still resides in the original house containing the library and other appurtenances of the school.



ANCH OF LC & L

W. E. Stewart

Rev. Neal

Mrs. Aggie Smith

John M. Crutch

J. T. Gunn
121

120 N.T. Carpenter & Co.

L. Weadley
119

Dr. W. J. Rogers
118

Ventley

J. W. Zarig

Peoples Steam Mills
W. E. Paynter

Distillery
379391

113 WESTERN

K. A. Harrington
115

416 Stock Pens

Mar. & Reed
117

SHELBY ST.

Shelby
111
Graded School

110 Mrs. J. D. Allen
Bullard

Depot

COLLEGE

WASHINGTON

MAIN

CLAY

108

109

88 89 90 91 92

84 85 86 87 88

OLD CEMETERY

32 37 30

COURT HOUSE

104

106

89 90 91 92

83 84 85 86

Shelby Female College

32 37 30

COURT HOUSE

124 123 122

124 123 122

104 103 102 101

100 99 97

SEVENTH

32 37 30

ST.

ADDITION TO WESTERN

ADDITION TO WESTERN

ADDITION TO WESTERN

OR

BRADSHAW

J. A. Glass

Mrs. Gen. M. Bright

J. M. Backworth

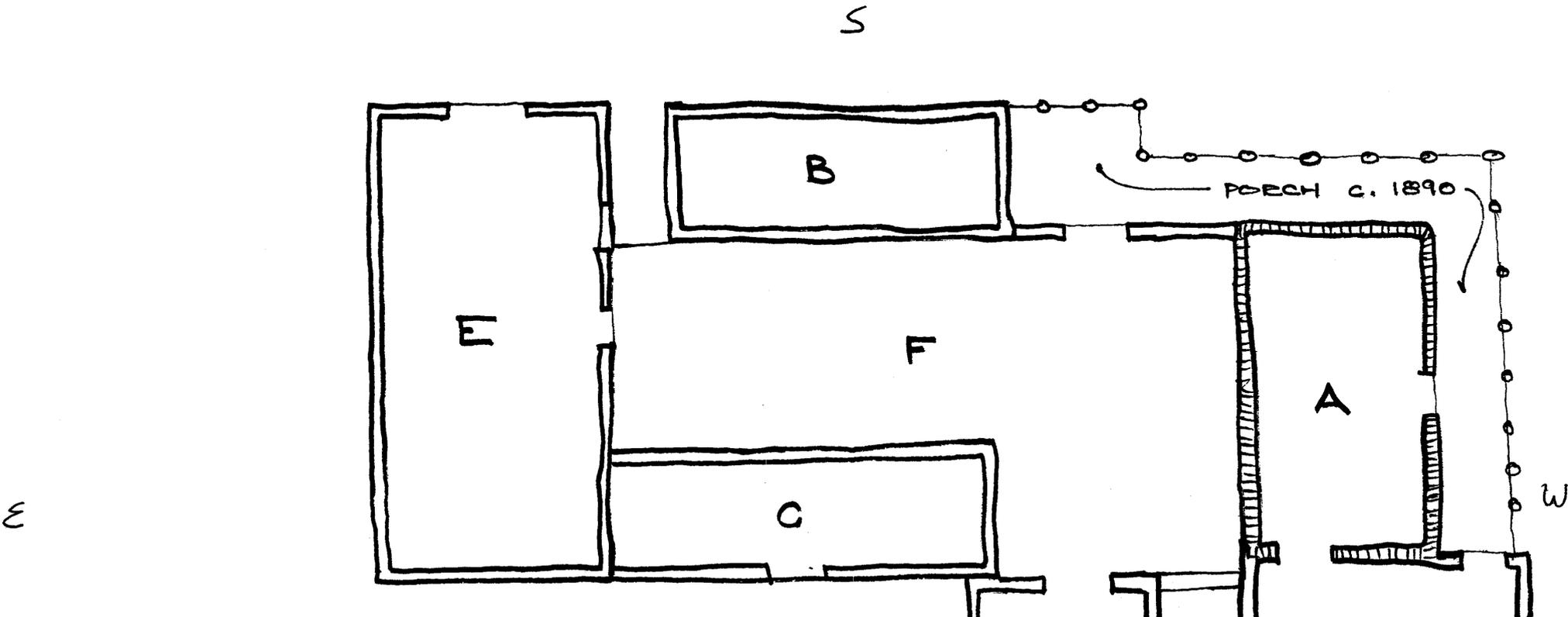
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Graded School

GOODMAN

J. W. Goodman



SCIENCE HILL SCHOOL

- A. ORIGINAL HOUSE (PRE 1825)
- B. DORMITORY (1826)
- C. DORMITORY (1827)
- D. DINING ROOM (CIRCA 1830)
- E. CHAPEL AND DORMITORY (1860)
- F. ENCLOSED COURTYARD (1861)
- G. HALL AND KITCHEN (CIRCA 1880)

NOTE :

NO SCALE —
RELATIONSHIP
ONLY

N