

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. Name of Property

historic name Halcomb, Dr. Francis Joseph (F.J.), Jr. House

other names/site number ALS-76

Related Multiple Property NA

2. Location

street & number 253 Franklin Road

NA

not for publication

city or town Scottsville

NA

vicinity

state Kentucky code KY county Allen code 003 zip code 42164

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

Signature of certifying official/Title Craig Potts/SHPO Date _____

Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

Signature of commenting official _____ Date _____

Title _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register determined eligible for the National Register
 determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register
 other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

Halcomb, Dr. Francis Joseph (F.J.), Jr. House
Name of Property

Allen County, Kentucky
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3		buildings
		district
		site
3	2	structure
		object
6	2	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

NA

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

HEALTH CARE/medical business/office

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Vacant, Not in Use

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Other: log house with Arts & Crafts influences

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Limestone and concrete block

walls: Log, Faux log (scored horizontal plank),
stone veneer, aluminum siding

roof: Asphalt shingle

other:

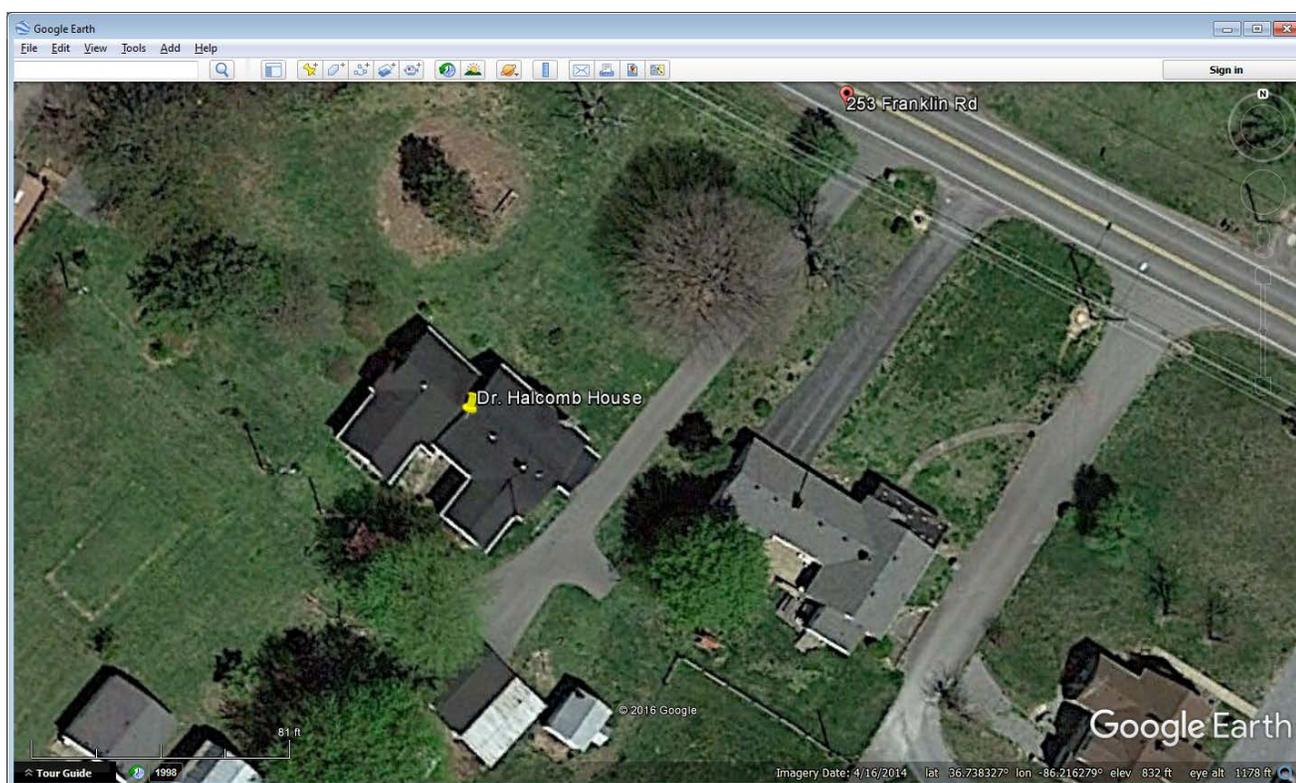
Halcomb, Dr. Francis Joseph (F.J.), Jr. House
Name of Property

Allen County, Kentucky
County and State

Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

The Dr. Francis Joseph (F.J.) Halcomb, Jr. House (ALS-76) is located just off SR 100 in the White Plains neighborhood of Scottville, Kentucky. The two-and-a-quarter-acre property includes the house and six outbuildings. The house, built around 1900 of square-notched chestnut logs, has undergone two major changes. The first was in 1953, when a faux-log and stone-veneered frame addition was constructed on the west side of the house. In the 1960s, a screened porch on the rear of the original house was enclosed and sided with aluminum. Dr. Halcomb and his wife, Mariola, bought the house in 1946, and though it was built much earlier it is from its association with Dr. F.J. Halcomb that the building derives its significance. The 2¼-acre area proposed for listing includes the house and five contributing outbuildings, as well as two non-contributing outbuildings.



Dr. F.J. Halcomb, Jr. House

Latitude 36.738325°

Longitude -86.216280°

Narrative Description of the Property

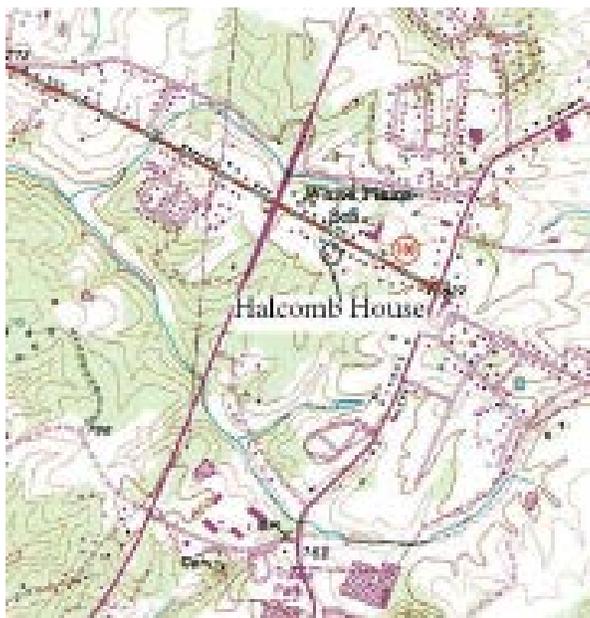
The 2¼-acre lot is roughly rectangular and fronts Franklin Road (SR100). The house is in the White Plains neighborhood south of the Scottville business district. This neighborhood, located on both sides of SR 100 between Gallatin Road (old US 31E) to the east and US 31E to the west, is a prosperous residential area with lots of similar size and houses of similar scale. All the houses in the neighborhood front SR 100. The lots are deeper than they are wide, providing ample space for gardens, pools, and other typical backyard functions. The rear of the lot proposed for listing, like many others in the neighborhood, is wooded.

Halcomb, Dr. Francis Joseph (F.J.), Jr. House

Allen County, Kentucky

Name of Property

County and State



Quad map location of site



Sketch of site. Features above: 1: Main House; 2: Well House; 3: Garage; 4: White Metal Shed (NC); 5: Black Shed; 6: Black and White Shed (aka Hen House); 7: Barn; 8: White vinyl Storage Building (NC).

The façade (north face) of the Halcomb House is oriented northeast toward Franklin Road (photo 1). The asphalt driveway that connects the house to the street ends at a two-car garage (photo 2). The most striking feature of this property is the paint scheme. The original log house and the faux-log portion of the 1953 addition are painted black and white—the logs black and the chinking white. The style, which accentuates the logs and gives the impression of horizontal stripes, is repeated on most of the contributing outbuildings. Behind the house are seven dependencies: a garage, barn, two frame sheds, a metal shed, a vinyl-clad shed, and a small frame well house.

Description of Individual Resources

Halcomb House (contributing building)

Exterior Description

The original log house sits on a limestone foundation over a full basement and is one story-and-a-half high. The façade is asymmetrical, with a cut-limestone chimney east of the front entrance. The chimney is flanked by two small one-over-one double-hung windows. The entry is covered by a small gabled roof that rests on two wood Craftsman-like brackets. The door is lit by nine square lights arranged three-over-three. West of the door is a pair of double hung windows, which are in the dining room. This is the extent of the original log house purchased by the Halcombs in 1946. Above the first floor is a half-story accessed by stairs in what would then have been the rear of the house. The upstairs consists of one open room that served as a bedroom. There are three closet/attic spaces under the eaves and windows in the east and west wall, which form the end gables of the roof. There is nothing to indicate the presence of the upstairs room from the front of the house.

Halcomb, Dr. Francis Joseph (F.J.), Jr. House

Allen County, Kentucky

Name of Property

County and State

The original portion of the house was constructed of square-notched chestnut logs about 1900. The asymmetrical façade had five bays. Behind the office and stairwell was the screened porch. It is not clear if the porch was part of the original 1900 house. It seems unlikely, as the foundation is concrete block.

When the Halcombs purchased the house they had one child. By 1953, the couple had three children and had outgrown the small house. That year, they built the west addition (photos 3 and 4), adding three bedrooms, one full bath, one half-bath, and a full basement to the original house. A second remodeling took place in the early 1960s, when the screened porch was enclosed to become a family room/Dr. Halcomb's library and office (photo 5). About 2006, vinyl replacement windows were installed in all rooms except the enclosed screen porch, which has aluminum jalousie windows. The only other change made to the contributing structures was the addition of a boat storage area to the east side of the garage in the late 1960s.



Main Dwelling, north façade



Main Dwelling addition

The house and larger dependencies are painted black and white. The house appears to be striped horizontally, while the garage and barn have vertical stripes (photos 6 & 7). The two older sheds east of the barn are also painted black and white, but are not striped in appearance. The original house is 1.5 stories and has a limestone foundation. The addition and the enclosed screened porch room have concrete block foundations.



Main Dwelling, enclosed screen porch



Main Dwelling, dining room

Interior Description

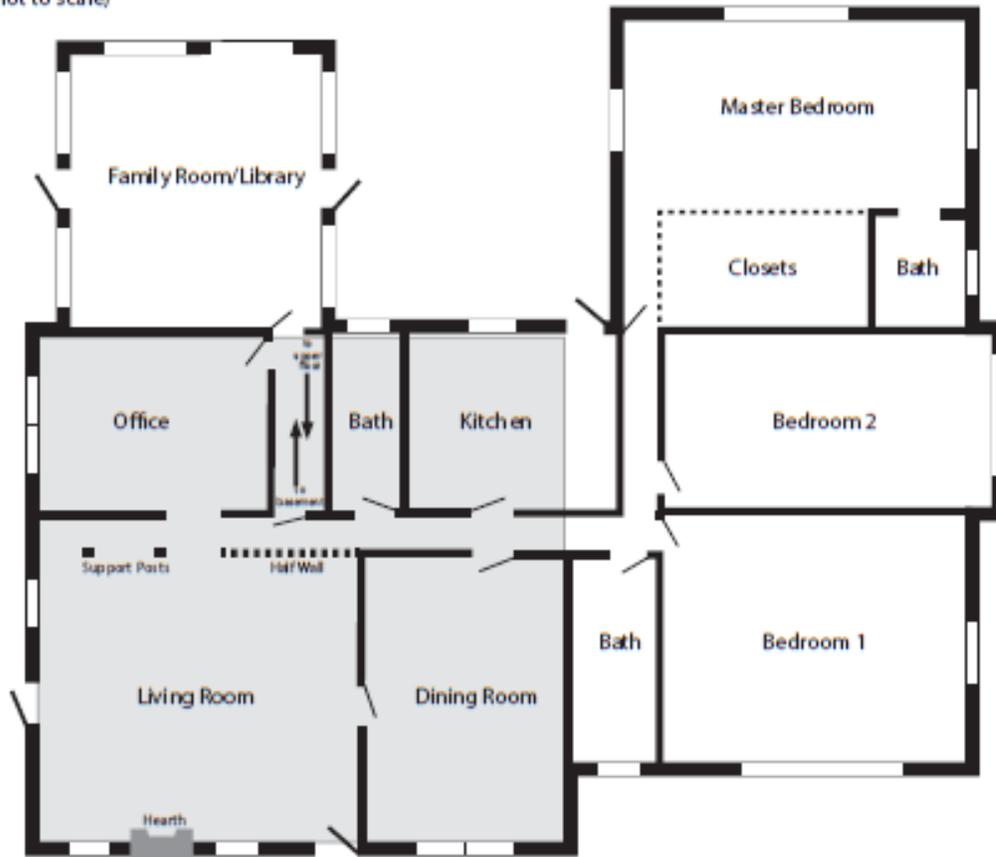
The original house had two rooms in the front, one on each side of the front door, the larger on the east side. A hall separated the two front rooms—a living room and dining room—from the rear rooms—the current kitchen, office (original kitchen), and bathroom. A stairwell accessed from the office led to a large bedroom upstairs.

Halcomb, Dr. Francis Joseph (F.J.), Jr. House
Name of Property

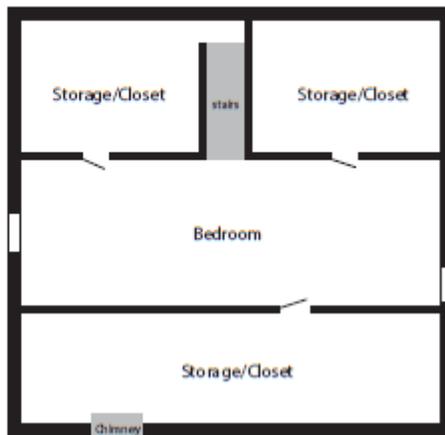
Allen County, Kentucky
County and State

Halcomb, Francis Joseph (F.J.), Jr. House
ALS-76
First Floor (not to scale)

Original floor plan 



Halcomb, Francis Joseph (F.J.), Jr. House
ALS-76
Second Floor (not to scale)



Halcomb, Dr. Francis Joseph (F.J.), Jr. House

Allen County, Kentucky

Name of Property

County and State

The main entrance to the house is via the side (east) porch door, which, like the front door, has a three-over-three light. This entrance and the front door open into the living room, which is the largest room in the original house. There is a fireplace on the north wall. There are three windows in the room: two small windows flank the fireplace. The third is on the east wall just south of the door. A door on the west wall opens into the dining room. Most of the south wall of the living room is open and allows access to the office and the hall separating the living room and dining room from the kitchen and bathroom. The dining room has a pair of double-hung windows on the north wall. Doors on the east and south walls lead to the living room and hall, respectively. The office has a pair of double-hung windows on the east wall. A door on the north wall accesses the living room. A second door on the west wall leads to a vestibule accessing the door to the family room and the stairway to the upper floor.

The screened porch, which was enclosed in the early 1960s, became the family room, and Dr. F.J. Halcomb also saw patients here. After he retired, the room became his library. The room has doors on the east, west, and north walls; all three have jalousie windows. The east and west wall have matching pairs of jalousie windows flanking the doors and there are two pairs of jalousie windows on the south wall. The interior walls are covered in knotty-pine paneling; built-in bookcases on the north wall hold Dr. Halcomb's library.

The second floor of the house is accessed from the stairwell between the family room/library and office. The second floor is one open room and was used as a bedroom. There are three closets/storage areas in the space under the eaves. There is a double-hung window on each of the west and east walls.

The hall behind the living room and the dining room accesses the kitchen and bathroom, both of which were probably updated during the 1953 renovation. The hall also provides access to the basement and the 1953 addition. The extended hall also accesses the second full bath, which is in the portion of the 1953 addition that is faced in faux logs, and the first bedroom, which is also in the faux-log section. The bathroom has a single double-hung window on the north wall. The adjacent bedroom has a three-panel sliding window on the north/faux log wall. From the bedroom in the faux-log section, a second hall perpendicular to the first leads into the frame/stone veneered portion of the 1953 addition and two more bedrooms. The second and smallest bedroom is reached first. This bedroom is in a section of the frame addition that protrudes beyond the faux log section and has a pair of double-hung windows on the west wall. The master bedroom is at the end of the hall. The master has a half-bath with a single double-hung window on the west wall. The master bedroom also has a double-hung window on the west wall and pairs of double-hung windows on the south and east walls.

As noted above, all of the walls and ceilings in the original house are covered in chestnut paneling and all but the kitchen and bathroom have hewn beams on the ceilings. Both the original house and the addition sit over a full basement (photo 8).

Garage (contributing building): The one-story two-car garage was probably constructed in the 1920s and enlarged in the 1960s to allow for boat storage on its east side. The building is frame, with board and batten walls on three sides. The original portion of the garage sits on a poured concrete foundation; the later addition is on concrete blocks. The house's black and white paint scheme is repeated on the garage. The front and both sides of the structure are painted black and the vertical battens painted white, as is the trim, creating vertical stripes that complement the horizontal stripes of the house. The rear, which does not have battens, is solid black with white trim (photo 9).

Halcomb, Dr. Francis Joseph (F.J.), Jr. House

Allen County, Kentucky

Name of Property

County and State



Garage, North face



Garage, South face

Barn (contributing building): The gambrel-roofed frame barn was probably constructed about the same time as the house. It has double doors on both ends and was probably a multi-use structure that housed animals and, perhaps, some tobacco. The barn is also painted black and white. Vertical stripes accent the barn's front (north) face above the doors and under the eave; the trim is also painted white. The three other sides of the barn have vertical battens, which like those on the garage, are painted white (photo 10).



Garage, West and South faces



Garage, North face

Black and white shed (contributing structure): This small frame structure sits on stone piers. It is constructed of horizontal planks and has a door and a double-hung window in the west wall. The hipped roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The building is painted black; the trim along the roof line, the vertical boards on all four corners, the door, door surround, and the window frame and trim are painted white (photo 11).

Black shed, aka Hen House (contributing structure): This frame structure is sided with vertical board and batten planks; the end-gable roof is covered in metal. There is a door on the west side of the building made of the same material as the rest of the structure. There is a second opening into the structure on the south face; it is now covered with plywood. The structure may have been constructed as a poultry house and was called "the hen house" by members of the Halcomb family, who used it in the 1940s and 50s to house the poultry and other

Halcomb, Dr. Francis Joseph (F.J.), Jr. House
Name of Property

Allen County, Kentucky
County and State

domestic animals that Dr. Halcomb sometimes received in lieu of money for his services.¹ The structure was on the property when the Halcombs purchased it in 1946 and appears to date from the period when the house was constructed. It sits on stone piers, which are covered with sheet metal (photo 12).



Black and White shed, west face



Black Shed (Hen House), south face

Well House (contributing structure): This small frame shed clad in white-painted wood lattice sits between the garage and the house just off the end of the driveway. The front-gable roof is covered in asphalt shingles. This structure also repeats the black and white paint scheme. Julie Koch, Dr. Halcomb's daughter, stated that it is one of the original outbuildings and was on the property when the family purchased it (photo 13).²

White metal shed (non-contributing structure): This prefabricated metal shed was probably purchased and brought to the property in the last quarter of the twentieth century. It has a central door on the west face flanked by two windows with faux shutters (photo 14).



Well House, looking southwest



White Metal Shed, west face

White vinyl storage building (non-contributing structure): This large frame shed is covered in vinyl siding and was probably constructed in the last quarter of the twentieth century. The end-gable roof is covered in

¹ F. Joseph Halcomb, III, personal communication, June 14, 2017.

² Julie Koch, personal communication, July 26, 2017.

Halcomb, Dr. Francis Joseph (F.J.), Jr. House

Allen County, Kentucky

Name of Property

County and State

asphalt shingles. It has a small door on the north face to allow access by individuals and a door large enough for vehicles on the south face. There are two windows on the west face. The building was constructed on a concrete block foundation (photo 15).



White Metal Storage Building, south face

Changes to the Property since the Period of Significance

The period of significance for the property is 1946-1967. It is unclear just when the last changes to the contributing structures were made but it appears that the changes made to the house were completed within the period of significance. The addition was finished in 1953 and the enclosure of the screened porch was completed in the early 1960s. According to Dr. Halcomb's children, Francis Joseph Halcomb, III and Julie Koch, the boat storage portion of the garage was finished in the late 1960s. That may fall within the period of significance or just outside of it depending upon when in the late 1960s it was completed. What is known is that the addition to the garage, like that made to the house, was constructed and painted to harmonize with the existing structures on the property. The eastern face of the garage, which was added, is board-and-batten painted black and white as are the house and contributing dependencies. The only other changes to the property were the addition of the two white storage sheds, which cannot be seen from the road and thus do not adversely impact the historic look of the property. Upon acquiring the property, the city cleared some shrubs and trees along the west property line. Anyone who saw the building prior to 1953 and who was driving down Franklin Road in 2017 might notice that the house and garage looked larger, but in all probability would only notice the black-and-white house on Franklin Road and remember that this was the house where the Dr. Halcomb lived.³

³ F. Joseph Halcomb, III, personal communication, June 14, 2017; and Julie Koch, personal communication, July 26, 2017

Halcomb, Dr. Francis Joseph (F.J.), Jr. House
Name of Property

Allen County, Kentucky
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- 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 in prehistory or history

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Health/Medicine

Period of Significance

1946-1967

Significant Dates

1946

1953

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Halcomb, Dr. Francis Joseph (F.J.), Jr.

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

Period of Significance:

The Period of Significance chosen, 1946-1967, are the years in which Dr. Francis Joseph (F.J.) Halcomb lived in and practiced medicine in Scottsville. His significance in the local medical context continues until the 1980s, but ends in 1967 with to respect the National Register's view of the historic period ending fifty years prior to the nomination's completion.

Criteria Considerations: NA

Halcomb, Dr. Francis Joseph (F.J.), Jr. House

Allen County, Kentucky

Name of Property

County and State

Statement of Significance

The Dr. Francis Joseph (F.J.), Jr. Halcomb House (ALS-76) meets National Register eligibility Criterion B. It is locally significant for its association with Dr. F.J. Halcomb, Jr. who played an important role in the history of health care in Scottsville, Kentucky. The significance of Halcomb's role in local medicine is evaluated within the historic context "Medicine in Scottsville, Kentucky, 1865-1970." In addition to being a respected health care professional, Dr. Halcomb was an active member of the community. He served on the Allen County School Board for twenty-four years, eighteen of those as chairman. He stood for a seat on the city council, was elected, a position he held, with a brief interruption, for nineteen years. Dr. Halcomb's contributions to Scottsville and Allen County are remarkable and the house at 253 Franklin Road is a tangible link to that legacy.

Historic Context: Medicine in Scottsville, Kentucky, 1865-1945

Between 1865 and 1890, at least five doctors are known to have practiced medicine in Allen County. It is likely that these men served the needs of the local population from an office in their homes. In 1893, Dr. W.E. Willoughby opened the first practice in Scottsville. In 1896 the first County Health Doctor was appointed for Allen County.⁴

Allen County's first hospital opened twelve years after a County Health Doctor was appointed. Built by doctors Hubert M. Meredith and William E. Meredith, the Meredith Infirmary opened its doors in 1908. The two-story Greek revival structure on the corner of 4th and Maple Street served the community for less than ten years. It survived the death of Dr. William Meredith in 1909, but a fire in 1914 closed the facility.

A year or so after Meredith Infirmary closed, two brothers, Lattie and Pellie Graves, Allen County natives who received their degrees from Vanderbilt Medical School in Nashville, opened a medical practice in Scottsville. Four years later, the brothers opened a hospital in town, the Graves Clinic.⁵ Located at 217 W. Main Street, the new hospital occupied a large two-story former residence. The modern facility had a staff of five, which included the two doctors. Among the Graves Clinic's up-to-date equipment was an X-ray machine. The facility could accommodate nine patients and had an operating room. Dr. Pellie Graves died in 1925, but his brother kept the facility going. In fact, he enlarged the hospital in 1935, nearly doubling the number of rooms for patients. Dr. Lattie Graves died in 1942 and the family, which also operated a Graves Clinic in Bowling Green, opted to close the Scottsville operation.⁶

Medicine in Scottsville, Kentucky, 1945-1980s

Francis Joseph Halcomb, Jr.

Francis Joseph Halcomb, Jr. was born in Simpson County, Kentucky, on May 19, 1918. He attended Sulphur Springs School there until he reached the 10th grade and then transferred to Franklin High School in the county seat of Simpson County. He graduated in 1935 and enrolled at the University of Kentucky. Upon graduating from the University of Kentucky he attended the University of Louisville, where he obtained his medical degree in 1943. While studying in Louisville Halcomb met and married Mariola Shrewsbury of Glen Dean,

⁴ H.H. Patton, *A History of Scottsville and Allen County*, Gerald Printing Service, Scottsville, Kentucky, 1974, p. 31.

⁵ Allen County Homemakers Association, *Back Home, in Allen County, Kentucky*, Allen County Extension Service, Scottsville, Kentucky, 1992, p. 31; Patton, *A History of Scottsville and Allen County*, p. 31; and Allen County Historical Society, *The Beginning: A Pictorial History of Allen County, Kentucky*, Allen County Historical Society, Scottsville, 1985, p. 33.

⁶ "The Graves Infirmary . . . A Tradition of Care Begins," undated clipping provided to the author by F. Joseph Halcomb, III.

Halcomb, Dr. Francis Joseph (F.J.), Jr. House

Allen County, Kentucky

Name of Property

County and State

Breckinridge County, Kentucky. The couple moved to Nashville, where Dr. Halcomb thought he would serve his year of residency, but World War II intervened.⁷

Halcomb served in 5th Army Auxiliary Medical Support Group (AAMSG). The unit, composed of 120 doctors, 70 nurses, and 450 enlisted men, arrived in England just after the June 6, 1944 D-Day invasion. Halcomb and the rest of the 5th AAMSG soon crossed the English Channel and followed the advance of the U.S. Army across France and Germany. During the push toward Berlin, when the fighting was at its worst, the doctors worked two twelve-hour shifts. When Germany surrendered on May 7, 1945, the army ordered the 5th Army Auxiliary Medical Support Group to the Pacific Theater of the war. The army needed to get medical groups in the Far East before a planned U.S. invasion of Japan was launched. While en route to the Far East, the war ended and the 5th AAMSG was sent home. Dr. Halcomb arrived back home in Tennessee in 1946, hoping to finish his residency and become an OB/GYN.⁸



F.J. Halcomb, 1940s

Dr. Halcomb with Doctors Practicing at Allen County Hospital

Halcomb and Oliver

After Halcomb returned to Tennessee he was invited by Dr. G.W. Graves, who ran the remaining Graves Infirmary in Bowling Green, to join his firm and run a clinic in Scottsville. Halcomb accepted Graves's offer and contacted his friend, classmate, and former army physician Dr. Earl P. Oliver, to ask him to join him. The pair reopened the Graves Infirmary in summer 1946 and ran the small hospital for six years.

⁷ "Doctor, Councilman, Board Member: A Prominent Citizen Looks Back," *Citizen-Times* (Scottsville), February 10, 2005; "A Tribute to Mother," F. Joseph Halcomb, III, copy of unpublished manuscript in possession of the author; and David Carline Smith, *T.W. Crow & Son Funeral Home Records, 1981-2014*, N.D., N.P. pp. 218 and 251.

⁸ "Doctor, Councilman, Board Member: A Prominent Citizen Looks Back," *Citizen-Times* (Scottsville), February 10, 2005.

Halcomb, Dr. Francis Joseph (F.J.), Jr. House

Allen County, Kentucky

Name of Property

County and State

Allen County War Memorial Hospital – In 1952, using funds available through the Hospital Survey and Construction Act—also known as the Hill-Burton Act—the Allen County Fiscal Court built Allen County War Memorial Hospital. The bi-partisan act funded the construction of hospitals in areas in which they were most needed, generally rural areas. Criteria for the funding was based on a number of factors, among them population and per capita income; Scottsville met those criteria. The hospitals that received federal funds had to provide care to indigent patients, insuring that patients in need could and would receive health care services.⁹

The new \$450,000 facility was named in memory of service men from Allen County who died serving in the two world wars. With the opening of the new hospital, the Graves Infirmary closed; its last two patients transferred to the new hospital. Both Halcomb and Oliver assumed positions at the new facility.¹⁰

The hospital had thirty-one beds (nine private, eleven semi-private and twelve bassinets), laboratories, labor and delivery rooms, an operating room, and an emergency room. The new hospital's medical staff included Drs. F.J. Halcomb, Earl P. Oliver, A.O. Miller, John W. Meredith and Owen L. Davis. Mr. Harry O. Dudley served as the original administer and ran the day-to-day business of the facility. A staff of ten nurses and nurse's aides assisted the five staff physicians. In addition to the five staff doctors, there were four courtesy doctors and a consulting staff of fifteen physicians. By 1974 the hospital had expanded, adding another twenty-eight beds.¹¹

In 1993, the hospital was purchased by Commonwealth Health Corporation (CHC). Initially, CHC planned to expand and modernize the facility but soon determined that it was more practical to build a new hospital. The Medical Center Scottsville and Cal Turner Extended Care Pavilion opened in 1996. The larger and modern facilities are located on a twelve-acre complex off Burnley Road on land donated by Cal Turner, Sr., an Allen County native and founder of the Dollar General retail-store chain.¹²

Halcomb & Oliver Clinic – Halcomb and Oliver were general practitioners (GPs) and wished to continue and expand their practice as such. Perhaps to maintain continuity in the eyes of the community, they purchased the old Graves Infirmary building. The two men had worked in the building for several years and their patients were familiar with the location. The clinic was completely renovated. All of the systems were updated, new floors installed, ceilings dropped and modern acoustic tiles added. The renovation included new furniture and equipment for each examining room. On February 12, 1953, the new Halcomb & Oliver Clinic opened its doors. The clinic's staff included a dentist, Dr. Glen T. Huntsman, in addition to the two doctors. According to the local paper the facility compared "favorably with clinics in much larger cities."¹³

In 1962, Halcomb and Oliver updated and expanded the clinic. A wing was added to the building, creating room for new facilities and giving the clinic a new entrance from North Welch Street. The clinic now housed a

⁹ Karen Kruse Thomas, "Hill-Burton Act," *The Encyclopedia of Alabama*, <http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-1439>, (Accessed July 11, 2017) and John Henning Schumann, "A Bygone Era: When Bipartisanship Led to Health Care Transformation," <http://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2016/10/02/495775518/a-bygone-era-when-bipartisanship-led-to-health-care-transformation>, (Accessed August 9, 2017).

¹⁰ "The Tradition of Care Continues . . ." undated clipping provided to the author by F. Joseph Halcomb, III and "Dedication of the New War Memorial Hospital July 14, 1952," *Citizen-Times* (Scottsville), July 14, 1952.

¹¹ Patton, *A History of Scottsville and Allen County*, p. 32; Allen County Historical Society, *Allen County Kentucky, Family History*, Turner Publishing Company, Nashville, Tennessee, 2004, p. 67; and "Dedication of the New War Memorial Hospital July 14, 1952," *Citizen-Times* (Scottsville), July 14, 1952.

¹² Allen County Historical Society, *Allen County Kentucky, Family History*, p. 67.

¹³ "New Clinic Opening Set for Feb. 12," *Citizen-Times* (Scottsville), February 5, 1953.

Halcomb, Dr. Francis Joseph (F.J.), Jr. House

Allen County, Kentucky

Name of Property

County and State

modern X-ray machine, an emergency and operating room, a lab that could process blood and urine samples, a bedroom, medical storage closets, and a medical library. The new wing opened October 1, 1962. The renovation demonstrated that the partners worked hard to keep their practice up to date. By 1974, the medical community in Allen County had grown to encompass five nursing homes, two medical clinics, four dentists, one optometrist, and a chiropractor. One of those medical clinics was Halcomb & Oliver.¹⁴

During his tenure in Scottsville, Dr. Halcomb not only saw patients at the clinic and in the hospital, but at his home as well. Initially, he used the small office space just off the living room as his consulting room. After the screened porch was enclosed, Dr. Halcomb used it as an examination room. According to Dr. Halcomb's son, Dr. Francis Joseph Halcomb, III, the family's routine would often be interrupted by patients visiting their house. The children had to leave the family room, often missing their favorite TV shows, so their father could conduct examinations.¹⁵

The treatment of patients often involved what Dr. Halcomb called "home visits." From the 1940s into the mid-1970s, Dr. Halcomb called on patients in their homes. In the early years, he and his wife Mariola, a registered nurse, visited patients in a war-surplus jeep and later he made house calls in a 1957 Mercedes-Benz 190SL roadster. As a general practitioner, he had to not only make diagnoses but to do his own lab work. The life of a rural doctor often meant long days. In a 2005 interview with the Scottsville *Citizen-Times*, Halcomb summed up the life of a rural GP: "I was sitting down for dinner at 11 o'clock at night many days. We were seeing patients in the office and making home calls as well. There was a real need."¹⁶

Dr. Halcomb was proud to be a general practitioner. In fact, he was a charter member of the Kentucky Academy of Family Practice organized in 1948 and served on its board for many years. His efforts as a doctor and citizen were rewarded by the organization when he was named Kentucky Citizen-Doctor of the Year in 1970. He served as the president of the Kentucky Academy of Family Practice in 1975-76 and was also active in the national organization, American Academy of Family Physicians. Dr. Halcomb was appointed to the Commission on Legislative and Governmental Affairs in 1982. In 2006, he received the organization's President's Award. He was the first physician in Kentucky to be board certified in Family Medicine.¹⁷

As GPs, Halcomb and Earl Oliver treated a wide variety of health issues over the thirty-eight years that they operated their clinic. In fact, Dr. Halcomb believed that he and Oliver delivered 5,000 babies during their tenure in Scottsville. The two continued working at their clinic and at the hospital in Scottsville until 1984. That year they sold the clinic to Dr. Lee Carter, who renamed the facility Scottsville Medical Clinic, which continues in operation today. Halcomb, then sixty-six, stayed on at the clinic in a limited role to help transition the patients. In the late 1980s or early 1990s, he and Oliver took part-time positions as the in-house physicians at the General

¹⁴ Untitled clipping from the "Dr. F.J. Halcomb" file dated 1962, Allen County Historical Society and Patton, *A History of Scottsville and Allen County*, p. 32.

¹⁵ "Dr. F.J. Halcomb, Jr., Obituary," *Bowling Green Daily News*, May 23, 2013; and F. Joseph Halcomb, III, "Halcomb House," copy of unpublished typescript in possession of the author.

¹⁶ "Doctor, Councilman, Board Member: A Prominent Citizen Looks Back," *Citizen-Times* (Scottsville), February 10, 2005.

¹⁷ F. Joseph Halcomb, III, "Halcomb House"; "Dr. Halcomb to head KY Academy of Family Practice," *Allen County News*, May 15, 1975 and "Halcomb is appointed to commission," *Allen County News* January 14, 1982.

Halcomb, Dr. Francis Joseph (F.J.), Jr. House

Allen County, Kentucky

Name of Property

County and State

Electric plant in Scottsville. The plant, which later became A.O. Smith, employed Halcomb until it closed in 2004.¹⁸

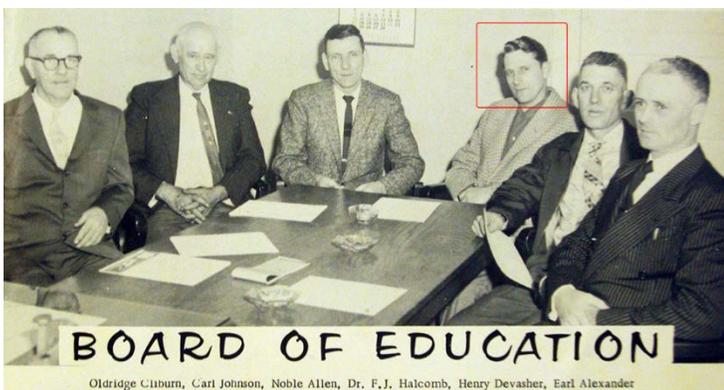
Dr. Halcomb's Civic Service

Dr. Halcomb began his medical practice in Scottsville in 1946 and probably began his community service career that same year. Dr. Halcomb joined a number of service clubs and other community-based organizations. He was a member of the Jaycees, who named him Man of the Year in the 1950s, and rose to the rank of vice-president of that organization. He was a Rotarian, a Mason and a Shriner, and a charter member of the White Plains Baptist Church.¹⁹

An avid sports fan, Dr. Halcomb became the team physician for the Allen County High School (ACHS) boys basketball team in 1952, a position he held for twenty years. The ACHS coaches would meet at the Halcomb house to prepare for the upcoming season and during the season to plan game strategy.²⁰

On April 22, 1955, Dr. Halcomb was part of a meeting at the Allen County Courthouse. The purpose of the gathering was to organize a Scottsville/Allen County Chamber of Commerce. On May 6, 1955, another meeting was held at the Jacksonian Hotel in Scottsville. That day, officers were elected and the Scottsville-Allen County Chamber of Commerce was formed. Dr. Halcomb's other business interests included banking; he served for a time as the director of the board of Kentucky State Bank in Scottsville.²¹

In 1956, Dr. Halcomb won a seat on the Allen County Board of Education, which he held through 1981. During his tenure the board grappled with three very significant issues that required the board to make hard choices: desegregation, construction of new school buildings, and the merger of the Scottsville City and the Allen County schools systems.²²



Dr. Halcomb on School Board, 1970s

Dr. Halcomb (on left) on City Council, c. 2003.

¹⁸ "The Tradition of Care Continues . . ." undated clipping provided to the author by F. Joseph Halcomb, III; and Scott Grismore, "Focus on the Scottsville Medical Clinic," undated clipping from the "Dr. F.J. Halcomb" file, Allen County Historical Society.

¹⁹ F. Joseph Halcomb, III, "Halcomb House."

²⁰ Angie Anderson, Allen County Board of Education, personal communication, July 27, 2017 and F. Joseph Halcomb, III, "Halcomb House."

²¹ Allen County Historical Society, *Allen County Kentucky, Family History*, pp. 36 and 77.

²² Angie Anderson, Allen County Board of Education, personal communication, July 27, 2017.

Halcomb, Dr. Francis Joseph (F.J.), Jr. House

Allen County, Kentucky

Name of Property

County and State

In 1970, the new Allen County high and middle schools were completed and opened in their present location on Bowling Green Road.²³ On June 30, 1974, in a special session of the school board, the Allen County Board of Education “accepted all interest rights and title to all real estate and personal property of the Scottsville Independent School District.”²⁴ The next day the merger became official. The first meeting of the combined school board took place on July 10, 1974. At the January 1975 meeting of the new Allen County Board of Education, Dr. Halcomb was named chairman of the board.²⁵

A year after he retired and sold his practice, Dr. Halcomb won a seat on the Scottsville City Council. During his tenure, the council dealt with many issues but none were more important or difficult than the decision to construct a new water treatment plant, which resulted in a rate increase. Because he supported the measure, Dr. Halcomb lost his seat on the council in the 1992 election.²⁶ As Dr. Halcomb stated: “Building the water treatment plant was a difficult decision but it had to be done. The water treatment plant was a big advancement.”²⁷ Halcomb was reelected to the city council in 1994 and served until 2007.

Dr. Francis Joseph (F.J.) Halcomb, Jr. died on May 16, 2013, just a few days short of his 95th birthday. His career as a general practitioner in Scottsville spanned fifty-eight years, from 1946 to 2004. He was a devoted doctor, citizen, husband and father. From the time of his arrival in 1946, Dr. Halcomb worked to improve the lives of the citizens of Scottsville and Allen County.

Evaluation of the Significance of Dr. Halcomb within the context of Medicine in Scottsville, Kentucky, 1865-1990

Dr. F.J. Halcomb began his practice of medicine in Scottsville at the beginning of what could be termed the “modern era of medicine” in the United States. He arrived in Allen County and filled a need created by the death of Dr. Lattie Graves. He and his partner, Dr. Earl P. Oliver, helped serve the medical needs of the community for nearly forty years. Initially, they may have been the only physicians in the county. As the population of the area grew in the 1950s and 60s, more doctors came to the area to work at the hospital and county health department or to open practices of their own.

Halcomb was a transitional figure. Post-World War II, Allen County was very much like the rest of rural Kentucky—many homes lacked electricity, running water, indoor plumbing, and other conveniences that twenty-first century Kentuckians take for granted. In the 1940s, doctors made house calls; that Dr. Halcomb continued to do so into the late-twentieth century speaks highly of his dedication to his profession and to the rural conservative nature of the county. Halcomb saw family practice as a specialty, one that he saw evolving with the times. In a speech delivered to the Kentucky Academy of Family Practice, probably in the late 1960s,

²³ Allen County Historical Society, *Allen County Kentucky, Family History*, p. 31.

²⁴ Retired Teachers of Allen County, *School Days of Allen County: From Ciphering and Reciting to the Age of Technology*, N.P., Scottsville, Kentucky 1992, p. 205.

²⁵ “Dr. Halcomb Heads County Educ. Board,” *Allen County News*, January 9, 1975.

²⁶ “City Council Meets,” *Allen County News*, January 11, 1990 and “Council addresses variety of issues,” *Allen County News*, September 13, 1990.

²⁷ “Doctor, Councilman, Board Member: A Prominent Citizen Looks Back,” *Citizen-Times* (Scottsville), February 10, 2005.

Halcomb, Dr. Francis Joseph (F.J.), Jr. House

Allen County, Kentucky

Name of Property

County and State

he stated: “The family doctor of the future will be Board Certified as an expert advising people how to keep well and prevent illness. He will generally be the guide on all health matters.”²⁸ He foresaw the concept of wellness and preventive care and other medical concepts now commonplace.

Evaluation of the Integrity between the Significance of Dr. Halcomb and the Physical Condition of the Halcomb House Today

The changes made to this property since the Halcombs acquired it in 1946, until the end of the Period of Significance, are considered important parts of its historic identity. Those changes made after 1967 are few, and were executed with sensitivity to the property’s historic identity. The Dr. Francis Joseph (F.J.) Halcomb Jr. House retains integrity of setting, feeling, location, materials and design. Because the property at 253 Franklin Street retains these integrity factors, it can be said to have integrity of associations, which confirms that a property meeting Criterion B is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Surviving family members who grew up in the house relate stories that help us see the house as an expression of Dr. Halcomb’s place in local medicine and within his community. Julie Koch, the Halcomb’s eldest child, stated that her mother fell in love with the house when she first saw it and it was likely her feelings for the building that led to its purchase. It is also very probable that the construction of the addition to mimic the original log structure was done because the house was so important to the family and they wanted to keep its historic feel intact, though there is no written record of that intent.

The Dr. Francis Joseph (F.J.), Jr. Halcomb House grew as his family did. According to Ms. Koch, when the family moved into the house she and her parents shared the bedroom space upstairs. By 1953, the family had grown to include three children ages nine, four and two. Dr. Halcomb had by then become established in the community as a physician and an individual. The hospital was open, his new clinic was doing well, and he was the doctor for Allen County High School basketball team. Dr. Halcomb and his wife, Mariola, decided that it was time to add on to their living space. The family moved into a rented house in Scottsville while construction was underway.

They had a faux-log-clad addition put on the house in 1953. That addition could have been clad in any material, but the Halcombs chose to construct it in a way that paid homage to the original structure, which his wife loved and his family called home.

The modifications made by Dr. and Mrs. Halcomb include the 1953 addition and the early 1960s enclosing of the screened porch, which is on the rear of the original house. Both changes were completed during the Period of Significance. The construction of the additions, especially the faux-log section, suggest the Halcombs’ desire to maintain the original guise of the house. The results created a larger façade, though one which kept the horizontal black-and-white-striped look intact.

The setting of the house has not altered appreciably since Dr. Halcomb’s death in 2014. It is in a residential neighborhood made up of well-maintained houses set on large suburban lots. The White Plains neighborhood along Franklin Street includes houses of similar scale with lots roughly of the same size. The area conveys the

²⁸ Dr. F.J. Halcomb, “The Vanishing Family Physician,” Undated typescript of speech from Halcomb Family papers, copy in possession of the author.

Halcomb, Dr. Francis Joseph (F.J.), Jr. House

Allen County, Kentucky

Name of Property

County and State

same sense of middle-class prosperity, security and serenity, as it did when the Halcombs lived there. As noted above, there have been no major changes to the interior of the house since the last addition, which was completed in the early 1960s, save the replacement windows, which were installed in 2006.

The main changes visible from the street are the 64-year-old faux-log and the garage additions, both of which may have been done just at the end of the Period of Significance. The most problematic change is the window replacements. Even these are compatible in their appearance, as they are white, which helped maintain the historic color scheme. The house sits far enough from the road only the most discerning viewer would notice the windows are replacements.

As noted above, though the house has been changed more during the Period of Significance than after. We are even unclear whether the changes to the garage were made during or after that period. Overall, the changes do not make it difficult to experience the house in the way that the Halcombs experienced it. There is an integrity between the physical character of the house today and the significant associations we have with Dr. Halcomb, making the property eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Halcomb, Dr. Francis Joseph (F.J.), Jr. House

Allen County, Kentucky

Name of Property

County and State

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Halcomb, Dr. Francis Joseph (F.J.), Jr. House
Name of Property

Allen County, Kentucky
County and State

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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): ALS-76

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2.25
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>16</u>	<u>569920</u>	<u>4065909</u>	3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal Boundary Description

The property proposed for listing is a two-and-a-quarter-acre parcel defined by the Allen County Property Valuation Administrator as parcel 39-26, account number 79246. The boundary includes the lot, house, and dependencies purchased by Dr. Francis Joseph and Mariola Halcomb in 1946.

Boundary Justification

The property proposed for listing is the two-and-a-quarter-acre parcel which was purchased by the Halcombs in 1946. The Dr. Francis Joseph (F.J.) Halcomb Jr. and the parcel upon which the house and dependencies sit has not changed significantly and is part of cultural landscape of the Halcomb House. The house and parcel retain integrity of setting, association, feeling, location, materials and design. These integrity factors thus make the boundary proposed for listing appropriate.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Joseph E. Brent

organization Mudpuppy & Waterdog, Inc. date _____

street & number 129 Walnut Street telephone 859-879-8509

city or town Versailles state KY zip code 40383

e-mail jbrent1@windstream.net

Halcomb, Dr. Francis Joseph (F.J.), Jr. House
Name of Property

Allen County, Kentucky
County and State

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Same information for all photographs:

Name of Property: Halcomb, Dr. Francis Joseph (F.J.), Jr. House
City or Vicinity: Scottsville
County: Allen
State: Kentucky
Photographer: Joseph E. Brent (unless stated otherwise)
Date Photographed: June 15, 2017 (unless stated otherwise)

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

- 1 of 15: Façade (north face) 0001
- 2 of 15: Garage (north face) 0002
- 3 of 15: Faux log addition looking southeast 0003
- 4 of 15: 1953 addition (west face) 0004
- 5 of 15: Enclosed screened porch looking northwest 0005
- 6 of 15: Garage (east face) 0006
- 7 of 15: Barn showing vertical stripes looking north east 0007
- 8 of 15: Dining room showing chestnut paneling and ceiling beams 0008
- 9 of 15: Garage (south face) 0009
- 10 of 15: Barn (north face) 0010
- 11 of 15: Black and white shed (west face) 0011
- 12 of 15: Black shed aka Hen House (south face) 0012
- 13 of 15: Well House looking southwest 0013
- 14 of 15: Metal shed (west face) 0014
- 15 of 15: Vinyl Shed (south face) 0015

Property Owner:

name City of Scottsville
street & number 201 Main Street telephone (270) 237-3238
city or town Scottsville state KY zip code 42164