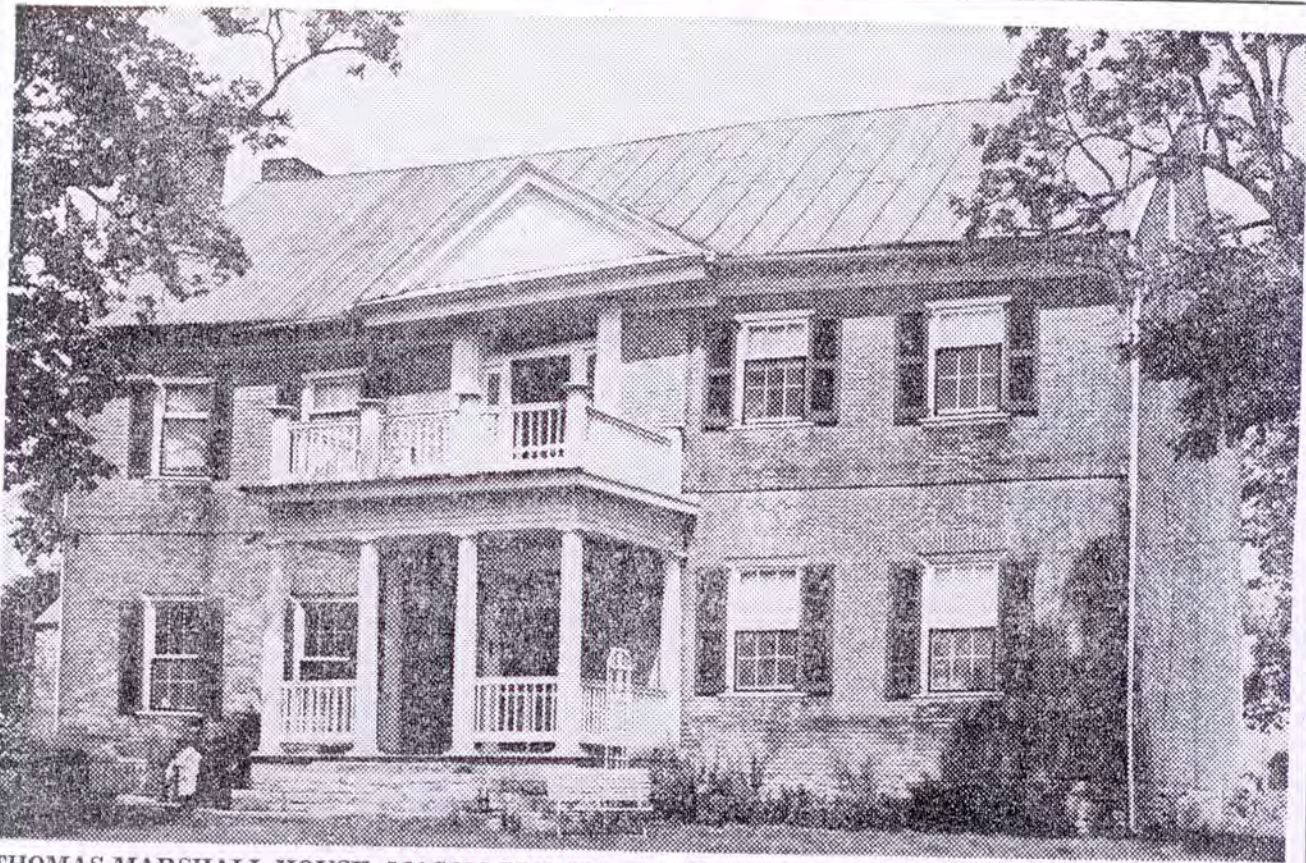


# HISTORIC KENTUCKY

Photo and Text by J. Winston Coleman Jr.



## THOMAS MARSHALL HOUSE, MASON COUNTY

—Four miles south of Maysville, in the town of Washington, stands this fine Georgian mansion, built around 1800 by Capt. Thomas Marshall Jr., brother of Chief Justice John Marshall. Capt. Marshall and his wife, Frances Kennan Marshall, came from Fauquier County, Virginia, to Kentucky in 1790 and built the "House on the Hill." His father, Col. Thomas Marshall Sr., surveyor-general for Kentucky County and colonel of the Third Virginia Regiment in the Revolutionary War, resided here with his son; he died in 1802. Of solid brick construction, the house presents a well-proportioned mass flanked by heavy chimneys. A wide central hall leads through the house, with the parlor on the right and the sitting and dining room on the left; a graceful stairway runs continuously to the attic. The kitchen is a one-story wing on the left. The pioneer house contains nine rooms, two large halls, two attic rooms and a big basement. The House on the Hill, or Federal Hill, as it was sometimes

called, was built of brick burned on the place and laid in Flemish bond. There are gabled ends and small-paneled, shuttered windows. The cornice has finely carved dentil work and in the parlor is a mantel of delicate Adam design; the hearth is a single piece of stone. A brick building in the yard served as an office when Martin P. Marshall was county clerk and Washington the county seat. The House on the Hill was the stopping place for all people of importance coming into the state, from Limestone, over the Lexington-Maysville Pike (Smith's wagon road) to Central Kentucky. Several generations of the Marshall family are buried in the plot back of the house, including Col. Marshall Sr., and his wife, Mary Keith Marshall, mother of 15 children. Her epitaph reads: "Born in 1737; died in 1809, she was good, but not great, useful but not ornamental." Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Fryman own and occupy the historic House on the Hill, and their son, Virgil Thomas Fryman Jr., represents the seventh generation of Marshalls to live here.