

1988

OCT 18 1989

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Ellis, Joseph H., House
other names/site number OL-349

2. Location

street & number 320 Maple Avenue N/A not for publication
city, town Pewee Valley N/A vicinity
state Kentucky code KY county Oldham code 185 zip code 40056

3. Classification

| | | | |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Ownership of Property | Category of Property | Number of Resources within Property | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | Contributing | Noncontributing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-local | <input type="checkbox"/> district | <u>1</u> | <u>1</u> buildings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-State | <input type="checkbox"/> site | <u>1</u> | _____ sites |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal | <input type="checkbox"/> structure | _____ | _____ structures |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> object | <u>2</u> | _____ objects |
| | | | <u>1</u> Total |

Name of related multiple property listing:
Historic Resources of Pewee Valley, Ky. MPL

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.

David L. Morgan
Signature of certifying official David L. Morgan Date 10-9-89
State Historic Preservation Officer, Kentucky Heritage Council
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register. Entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet. 11/27/89

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

for Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/ single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone/limestone

walls wood/weatherboard

roof asphalt

other wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)
Suburban Development

Period of Significance
1890 - 1900

Significant Dates
ca. 1890

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Builder
Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Beers and Lanagan. Atlas of Jefferson and Oldham Counties.
Philadelphia, 1879. Plate 53

Oldham County, Kentucky. Deed Books.

Also see bibliography with the Historic Resources of Pewee Valley,
Kentucky Multiple Property Listing.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): na
 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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Kentucky Heritage Council

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Approximately one and one-half acres.

UTM References

A 16 632940 4240620
Zone Easting Northing

B _____
Zone Easting Northing

C _____

D _____

Crestwood, Kentucky Quadrangle

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary coincides precisely with lot "PV 10-1-8A" as drawn in
the Oldham County Plat Books. It is outlined with a heavy black line
on an accompanying sketch map.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the nominated property includes the entire historic acreage
still associated with the house. This boundary has been selected in
order to document the house's setting and extant historic landscape
elements.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Carolyn Brooks, Historic Preservation Consultant
organization _____ date July 30, 1989
street & number 1288 Bassett Avenue telephone 502 456-2397
city or town Louisville state Ky. zip code 40204

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Ellis, Joseph H., HouseSection number 7 Page 1Description

The c. 1890 Joseph H. Ellis House is an imposing two-story late Victorian wood-framed house with considerable detailing but no identifiable style. The house sits on a one-and-one-half acre landscaped lot at 320 Maple Avenue within the area of the Historic Resources of Pewee Valley Multiple Property Listing. The National Register boundary coincides with the approximately rectangular one-and-one-half acre lot which is all that remains of a nearly thirteen acre property associated with the house until 1975. The remainder of this land, which surrounds the house to the rear and northwest side, has been developed as a subdivision and contains a number of new houses. Adjacent to the Ellis House, to the southeast, is a seriously altered historic house built about 1880 (OL-351).

The Ellis House sits well back from the road close to the rear of the property. The front yard of the level, grassed property is heavily planted with mature shade trees and evergreens. A historic driveway leads from the road and loops in front of the house. At the entrance to the drive are historic stone entrance gates (a contributing structure) each consisting of two large stone piers connected by a low wall with a crenelated top. A row of mature maple trees that runs along the front of the property was planted shortly after 1866 when the street was laid out. To the northwest side of the house is a non-contributing two-car concrete block garage built in the 1970s. The house and grounds are in good condition and very much retain their historic character.

The house, built in at least two stages and possibly three, has a complex asymmetrical plan. The roof is gabled with multiple projecting gabled wings and dormers. A number of the gables, including one on the front facade and all on a two-story rear addition, are finished with jerkinhead gables. The house is sheathed with weatherboard siding. Decorative shingles are located in the southernmost of two adjacent front facing gables, and a band of decorative shingles runs around the northwest and southeast sides of the front section. A full-width front porch that wraps around the northwest side has Tuscan columns and a cornice detailed with dentils. A one-story polygonal bay projects from the first floor front; a two-story rectangular bay capped by a jerkinhead gable is located on the southeast side. Windows, many of which are paired, are one-over-one double hung sash in the front section and four-over-four sash in the rear. The foundation is limestone block. Two brick chimneys rise from the ridgeline, and a third small exterior chimney is located on the rear facade. A one-story porch runs along the southeast side of the rear addition, and a square screened-in porch is located off the rear.

On the interior, the house has many elaborate finish details and a complex layout that suggests an additive plan. The front entrance hall on the southeast side contains a fine Eastlake-style staircase and two stained-glass windows on the stairs. Door and window trim in most of the first-floor rooms consists of

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reeded molding with convex bulls-eye corner blocks. Double cherry doors open from the hall into a front parlor, now a bedroom. A stained-glass window is located in the dining room, and the front parlor windows contain leaded glass. The house has a number of unusual mantels which appear to date from the late nineteenth century. In the front parlor is a massive terra-cotta and brick chimneypiece with a round-arched opening and a narrow mantel shelf trimmed with an egg-and-dart motif. Upstairs are two marbleized metal mantels with glazed tile inserts that include, at the corners, images of human heads. The rear portion of the house containing a kitchen and bathroom on the first floor and a hall, bedroom, and bathroom on the second is clearly an addition, probably dating from c. 1915 when Charles R. Collins purchased the house.

It is less clear whether the front portion of the house was built in more than one stage. An 1879 map of Pewee Valley clearly indicates a substantial house on this site. Deed research suggests this house would have been built about 1875. Whether the c. 1875 house burned and was replaced by the present house in the late 1880s (as the nominated building's style would suggest) or whether the earlier house was substantially altered has not been determined. The unusual configuration of the front facade, with its two adjacent gabled projections, only one of which is detailed with decorative shingles, suggests that perhaps the central gabled section (the front parlor on the first floor) was inserted into what had been a smaller and more typical L-shaped house. Certainly the interior detailing is more typical of the 1880s or 1890s than the 1870s. Unfortunately, deed research and oral tradition shed no light on the problem. A "best guess" has determined that J. H. Ellis, who purchased the property in 1889 and had a plat drawn up at that time (with no house indicated) either substantially remodeled an existing house or built the present house.

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Ellis, Joseph H., HouseSection number 8 Page 1Statement of Significance

The Joseph H. Ellis House (OL-349) is an important residential property in Pewee Valley individually nominated as part of the Historic Resources of Pewee Valley Multiple Property Listing. The house, probably built or substantially remodeled about 1890, and its grounds are eligible for the National Register under Criteria A. The house is an example of the property type residential buildings which was developed as part of the historic context "Suburban Development in Pewee Valley, 1851-1935." It has been evaluated to meet the registration requirements established for individual listing as part of the residential buildings property type. Its period of significance dates from 1890 to 1900, the period during which it is believed to have been built and the period it best represents in terms of Pewee Valley's suburban development.

In terms of Criterion A and the area of significance, Suburban Development, the Joseph Ellis House is important as documentation of the suburban development that occurred in Pewee Valley in the late nineteenth century. Located in the area of town laid out in 1866 by Henry Smith, the property provides one of the few remaining intact examples of pre-1900 houses built as part of this important residential development.

The complex late nineteenth century styling of the front portion of the house with its asymmetrical plan, decorative shingle work, polygonal and rectangular bays, gabled wings, and large wraparound porch brings to mind the Queen Anne style although the house cannot be labeled Queen Anne. Nonetheless, the Joseph Ellis House is representative of the large rambling residences built in Pewee Valley in the 1890s and influenced by the town's new Queen Anne style hotel, the Villa Ridge Inn, built in 1889.

Deed research indicates that William R. Shelby purchased the first of several pieces of land associated with this property from James F. Smith, nephew and son-in-law of Henry Smith, in 1875. An 1879 map shows a house with Shelby's name on the site. In 1889 Joseph H. Ellis purchased the then nine-acre property from Shelby for \$2500. Based on stylistic analysis and the large jump in the property price (reported in the deeds) it is presumed that Ellis built or drastically altered the house during the next 12 years. Julia and J. W. Stire who purchased the house in 1902 for \$4630 could also have been responsible. In 1915 Charles R. Collins, whose family owned the house until 1941, purchased the property. Collins, who is said to have been a summer resident, was no doubt responsible for the large rear addition and other accompanying changes. Nothing is known of any of these owners.

ELLIS, JOSEPH H. HOUSE
Pewee Valley, Oldham Co., Ky.

SKETCH MAP

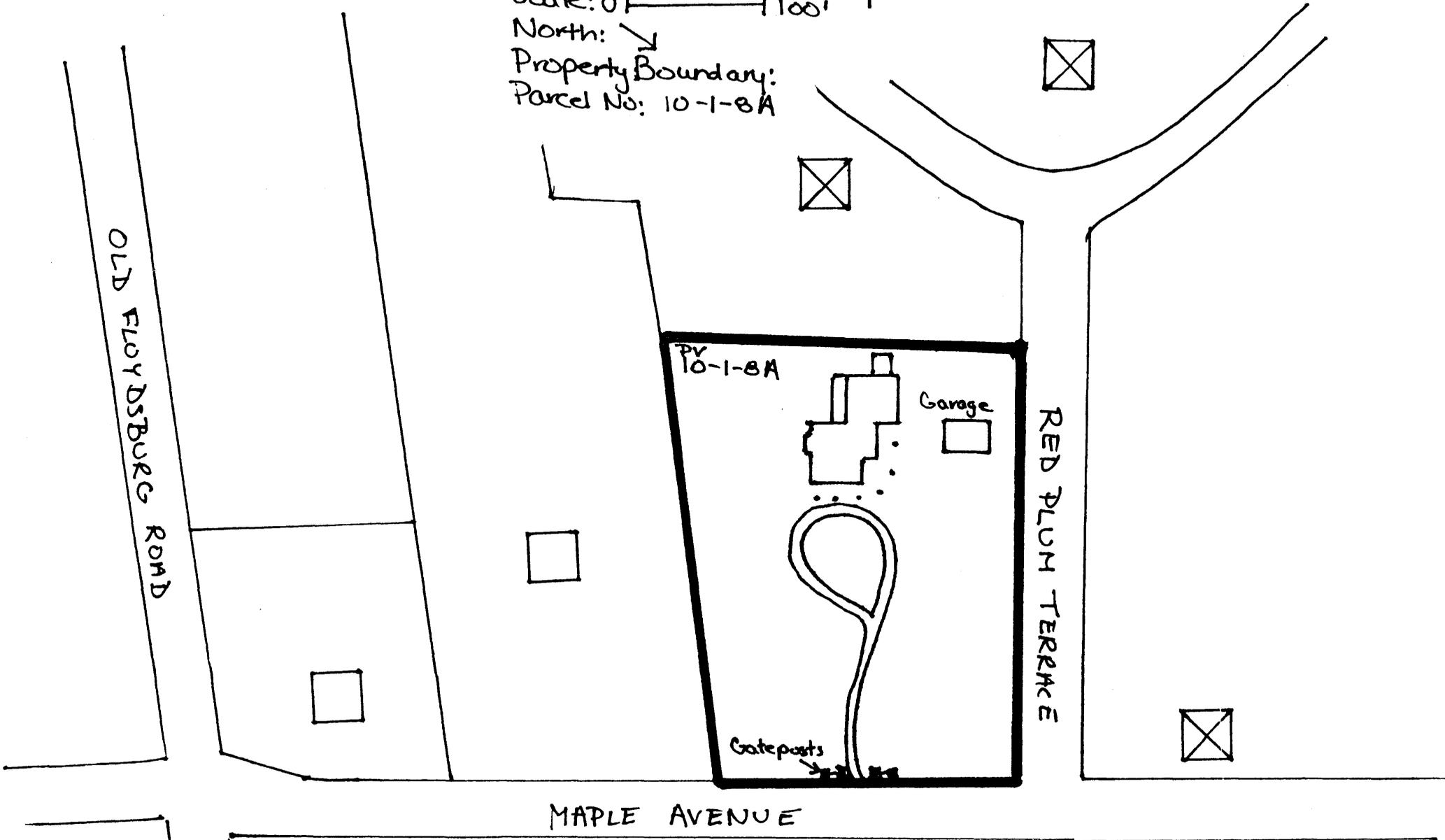
Source: Oldham Co. Plat Map

Scale: 0 |-----| 100'

North: ↓

Property Boundary:

Parcel No: 10-1-8A

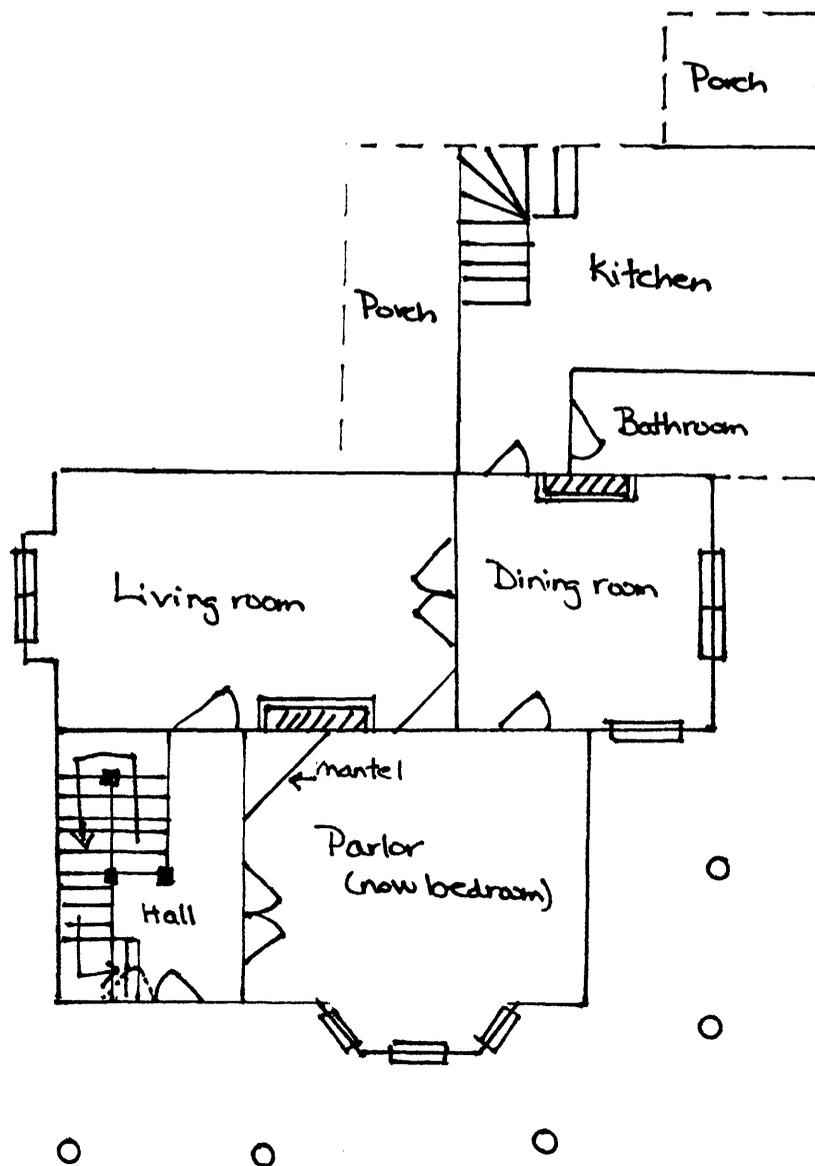


ELLIS, JOSEPH H., HOUSE
Pewee Valley, Oldham County, Ky.

Floor Plan

Not to scale

North: ↘



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PHOTOGRAPHS

1. Ellis, Joseph H., House
2. Pewee Valley, Oldham County, Kentucky
3. Photographer: Carolyn Brooks
4. Date: April, 1989
5. Negatives on file with the Kentucky Heritage Council, Frankfort, Ky.

(The above information is the same for all 3 photographs submitted with the nomination. Below, the photographs are listed in order of their photograph numbers, and each view is described.)

1. Front facade; photographer facing southwest.
2. Rear facade and northwest side, non-contributing garage at extreme left; photographer facing east.
3. Mantel in second floor north front bedroom; photographer facing south.