

PH00 34568

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>Kentucky</b>
COUNTY: <b>Fayette</b>
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE <b>NOV 21 1974</b>

1. NAME

COMMON:  
**James Lemon Houses**

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
**James Lemon Houses**

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**329-331 South Mill Street**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Lexington**

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
**06**

STATE:  
**Kentucky**

CODE:  
**021**

COUNTY:  
**Fayette**

CODE:  
**067**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure 	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
**Mr. and Mrs. John Higgins**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**110 Eastin Drive**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Lexington**

STATE:  
**Kentucky**

CODE:  
**021**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Fayette County Courthouse**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**W. Main Street at Cheapside**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Lexington**

STATE:  
**Kentucky**

CODE:  
**021**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**Historical Survey & Plan for Lexington & Fayette County Ky.**

DATE OF SURVEY: **1970**     Federal     State     County     Local

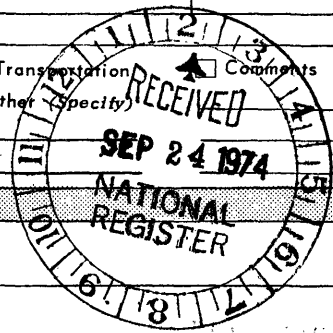
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**City-County Planning Commission**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**227 North Upper Street**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Lexington**

STATE:  
**Kentucky**

CODE:  
**021**



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

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NOV 21 1974

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

On a hill overlooking "the town valley," or what is now Lexington's main business district, are the James Lemon Houses, two exceptionally fine Federal townhouses. They are located on South Mill Street (329 S. Mill Street the northern extremity; <sup>of the building</sup> 331 S. Mill Street on the south end), in a block of other architecturally significant buildings.

The structure, built directly adjacent to the sidewalk, has two stories, and is six bays in width of brick laid in Flemish bond. There is a continuous roofline over the two houses, but substantial differences characterize the two exteriors. The house at 329 has an entranceway slightly wider than the one at 331 and contains a semicircular fanlight over six-panelled door. In addition the windows, with six over six pane sash, are not so long as those of 331. Pegged window frames survive in the rear. Other exterior features include a shaped stone front threshold with nosing and ribbing beneath.

Interesting features of the interior at 329 include a fan door in the stairhall with a reeded frame with squared bull's-eyes.

In the chamber behind the fan doorway is a partition of random-width beaded boards. A fireplace in the room is original as are the Federal frames on the windows and doors.

In the north front chamber old cupboards, a brick hearth, and ash floors remain. In the rear first floor chamber to the right of an old cupboard is a fireplace unusual for its small size and topped by a row of ten voussoirs set in an arch.

The staircase, with a closed stringer masking the ends of the steps, has an eight panel door present on the landing. The stairwell and landing have chair rail intact. The spindles are unshaped and the newels, topped with double button turnings, have base and ring turnings ascending to the rectangular block that receives the handrail.

As on the first floor, there are two chambers on the second floor. The second floor hall and stairwell to the garret has chairrail. Examination of the garret shows, that, at this level at least, there is no exterior wall on the south side abutting the adjacent rowhouse which suggests that this half of the rowhouse was built later. Other interesting details of the garret are the unusually wide floor boards.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

(continued)

**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian      16th Century      18th Century      20th Century  
 15th Century      17th Century      19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1812**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This early double house located in one of Lexington's oldest residential sections was built in 1812 by James Lemon, who had bought the property the same year from Elijah Oliver. Lemon (1750-1832), a Revolutionary War veteran, was a native of Ireland. He migrated to Fayette County in the late 18th century and for a brief period moved to Scott County, Kentucky. However he returned to Fayette County at the turn of the century.

He is listed variously in early histories and directories of the time as a tailor, owner of a brick yard, and a farmer. Evidently he was a prominent member of the community in that he was included in the welcoming committee for the Marquis de Lafayette, who visited in Lexington in the spring of 1825. Upon Lemon's death, the house was inherited by his wife, after which it went to his daughter, Mrs. Jane Grooms. The dwelling remained in the Grooms family for half a century and more.

In 1891 Mary C. Shiddell bought the house from the heirs of Jane Grooms--J. D. Coleman and wife, and W. A. Norris and wife. A relative of Ms. Shiddell, Andrew Jackson Shiddell, attracted national attention while residing in the Lemon House by producing mice without tails. His successful experiment attracted such notoriety that officials from Washington traveled to Lexington to see the "phenomenon". Apparently somewhat of an eccentric, Shiddell gained notoriety other ways. He wore a long flowing beard as a result of an election bet with himself. He declared he would not shave until John C. Breckinridge was elected President.

This double house, built by a prominent Lexington family, is typical of connected houses once common along Lexington streets. Most of these have been torn down, making them rarities because of the picture they present of what the "Athens of the West," as Lexington has been called, was once like. They are, in addition, located in a block of many other architecturally significant houses.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Clift, G. Glenn. "Kentucky Marriages and Obituaries." The Register of the Kentucky Historical Society, XXXIX (1941), p. 376.

Coleman, J. Winston. Lexington's First City Directory for the Year 1806. Lexington: Winburn Press, 1953.

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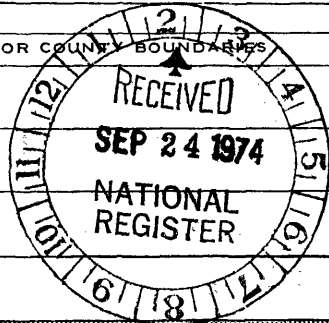
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		38° 02' 47"	84° 30' 06"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **0.2 acres**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



UTM  
16/719240  
4213710  
CD

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Fayette County Committee**

ORGANIZATION: **Kentucky Heritage Commission** DATE: **Sept. 1972**

STREET AND NUMBER: **1635 Ashwood Road** Revised **6-73**  
GM

CITY OR TOWN: **Lexington** STATE: **Kentucky** CODE: **021**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: Eldred W. Melton

Title: State Liaison Officer

Date: 9-15-74

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

A. B. Wooten  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 11/21/74

ATTEST:

Wm. J. Neustadt  
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 11/20/74

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Kentucky	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	NOV 21 1974



James Lemon Houses

Description (continued)

Page 2

The house at 331 has a narrower entrance with square four-light transom. The windows, nine over nine pane sash, are a good deal larger than those of 329 and are possibly a result of Victorian alteration. Also visible is the roughly-cut stone foundation, with brick basement window voussoirs, in contrast to the all-brick foundation of 329. Two dormers are obviously later additions.

The doorway leads to the stairhall, characterized by balustrade and newel, late Victorian replacements. In the rise from the landing to the second floor, the original Federal stair remains. The slender spindles are engaged in a recess created to receive them in the under side of the rounded railing. The hand-carved cut-outs with which the steps are decorated can still be seen. On the first floor landing a portion of the original chairrail survives. At the level of the second floor the balustrade changes and is composed of the original squared banister with closed stringer. It is of interest that this balustrade advances forward almost two feet beyond the stairwell. This device gives an easier grade to the upper flight and adds interest to the second floor hall.

As with the house at 329, there are two downstairs rooms. Original fireplace openings of these two rooms are of unusual width for parlor flies. Original cupboards survive in the back room.

On the second floor there is a hall chamber which has been converted into a bathroom, and two other chambers. All original Federal woodwork survives, except for the chairrail. The mantels in both rooms are original; the one in the front chamber is poplar, the rear room mantel is saved and to be replaced at a later date. Original presses remain in both rooms.

The stairway ascends to a garret which apparently was intended for occupancy and not just storage. A door in the north wall was a window at one time and may be an indication that this half of the rowhouse was built earlier than the other half.

All floors in the houses are of ash. The original cooking fireplace is present in the basement.

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(Continuation Sheet)

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James Lemon Houses

9. Major Bibliographical References (continued)

Page 2

Dunn, C. Frank. Old Houses of Lexington. Unpublished manuscript, Kentucky Historical Society, p. 373.

Mastin, Bettye Lee. Lexington Herald-Leader, June, 1973.

Perrin, William, ed. Bourbon, Scott, Harrison, and Nicholas Counties. Chicago: O. L. Baskin and Co., 1882, p. 604.

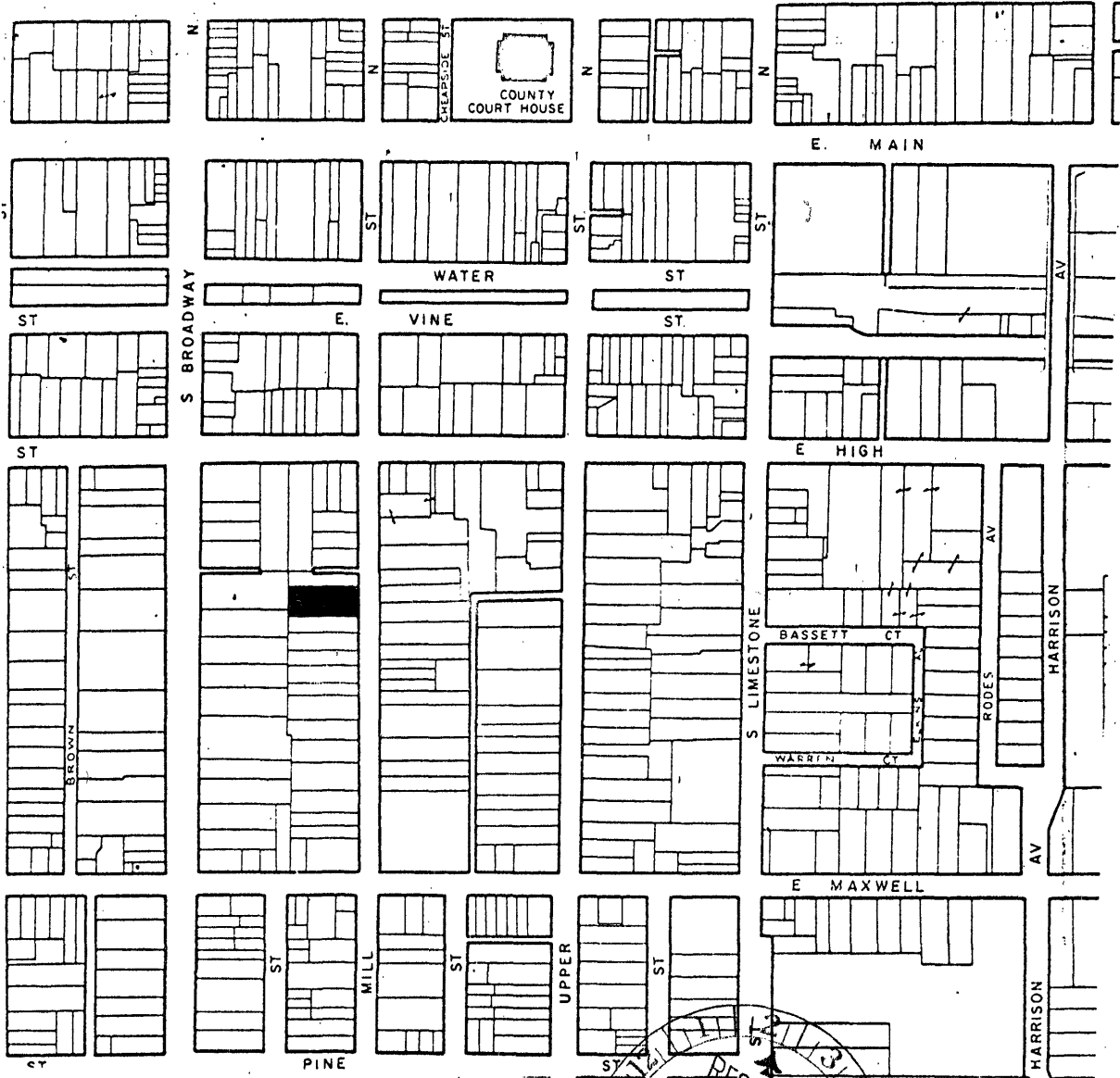


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(Continuation Sheet)

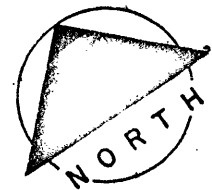
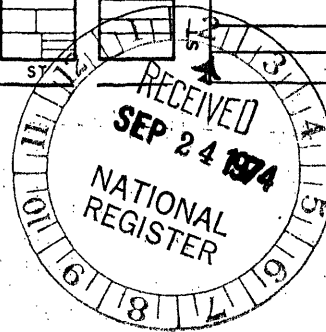
STATE Kentucky	
COUNTY Fayette	
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(Number all entries)



0 400  
SCALE IN FEET

LATITUDE: 84° 30' 04"  
LONGITUDE: 32° 02' 54"



JAMES LEMON HOUSES  
329-331 South Mill Street  
Lexington, Kentucky