

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only
received MAY 18 1982
date entered JUN 17 1982

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Cloud House

and/or common Bluegrass Farms

2. Location

street & number 3740 Versailles Road NA not for publication

city, town Lexington NA vicinity of congressional district 6th

state Kentucky code 021 county Fayette code 067

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 type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	NA <input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. & Mrs. Nelson Bunker Hunt

street & number 3740 Versailles Road

city, town Lexington NA vicinity of state Kentucky

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Fayette County Courthouse

street & number West Main Street

city, town Lexington state Kentucky

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title KY Historic Resources Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date January, 1980 federal state county local

depository for survey records Heritage Division, Kentucky Department of the Arts

city, town Frankfort state Kentucky

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Cloud House is located on the south side of the Versailles Road, Kentucky Route 50, approximately five miles west of Lexington in Fayette County, Kentucky. Fayette County is in central Kentucky marking the center of the world-famous Bluegrass region. The Cloud House is situated on an approximately 350-acre farm which is principally used for the raising of thoroughbred horses.

Facing north, this three-bay two-storied brick house has the general distinctiveness of the Greek Revival style but, according to architectural historian Clay Lancaster, it has "articulated chimney stacks and projecting bay windows which automatically put it into the romantic class." (Photo 1) By the 1850s, the Italianate style began creeping its way into the architectural scheme of the Bluegrass region and the Cloud House is a fine example of the transition between this style and the earlier Greek Revival.

The brick house is of common bond with every sixth course being alternating header and stretcher. Standing seam tin covers a hipped roof and the cornice is dentilated. The one-storied portico shelters the entrance bay and is supported by four Ionic fluted columns. The doorway with its transom and side lights is recessed and the panes of the transom and side lights are unusual in design, carrying out the triple motif of the windows of the facade. This same design is reflected in side lights on either side of the door on the second floor which goes onto the balustrated deck of the front portico. These upstairs side lights were probably shuttered similar to the blind side lights of the windows of the facade. The center bay is flanked by pilasters rising to the low pitched roof gable which has an open-bed pediment. Projecting from the roof are the articulated chimney stacks. (Photo 2) These and the bays on either side of the house are the major elements which take it out of the pure Greek Revival style. (Photo 3) The three-sided projecting bays have center doors and the one on the eastern side has stone steps leading to the gardens although the other bay on the opposite side of the house has had the steps removed. The rear gallery which ran alongside the service wing has been removed and a large ground level screened-in porch has been built. A service door on the west side of the ell has been added. (Photo 4)

The main block of the house is two rooms deep with a two-story attached wing. Except for a few minor things, the woodwork and other details of the interior have been unchanged. According to Clay Lancaster, "A fine spacious effect is achieved inside. The central transverse hall is broad and has wide double doors opening onto both sides of the house, behind, have presses flush with the chimney--fronts on the outer sides of the fireplaces, and connecting doors on the inner sides. The staircase rises in the hall next to the dining room and turns around a wide open well, continuing to the third floor." (Photo 5) Doors and jambs are all original with the first floor having doors of four panels and jambs decorated with flat panels. (Photo 6 & 7) Upstairs the doors are two panelled and the jambs have a chevron design. The first floor door and window frames are Greek eared and slightly pedimented. The second floor door frames are plain with corner blocks. The floors throughout are the original random width poplar. The mantels in the parlor are of wood and of Italianate style with serpentine shelf and cartouche and could be original in this transitional house. (Photo 8) The library and the two fireplaces upstairs in the main block of the house are very typical Greek Revival in style. (Photo 9) Two upstairs bedrooms have had bathrooms incorporated, thus eliminating the fireplaces. The mantel in the dining room is of the Federal style and a replacement. There are four identical ceiling medallions in the parlors, dining room

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input 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	1857	Builder/Architect	Unknown
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Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Cloud House, located in Fayette County five miles west of Lexington, is an outstanding example of a house which is basically of the Greek Revival style but reflects certain details of the Italianate period. It is the only house remaining in the area which so clearly states the influence of two styles of architecture. Constructed in 1857, it has undergone few changes over the years and remains virtually intact. Interior and exterior features remain almost unchanged, including mantels (except one replacement), doors, floors, baseboards, ceiling centerpieces, front portico and Italianate style bays.

This two-story brick villa was built for Mrs. Mary Cloud by her son-in-law, William Jones. The land on which it was built had been a 1,000-acre military survey awarded to Joseph Frazier in the late 18th century. Adjacent on the east boundary was land owned by great Kentucky frontiersman, Simon Kenton. The property remained in the Cloud family until 1870 when the house and land were purchased by William Hearne and wife Jenny, who named the place "Clover Land." In 1881 the property was transferred to Rutherford and Caroline Douglas. Dr. Rutherford Douglas came from Macon, Georgia, to be the minister of the Pisgah Presbyterian Church. Mrs. Douglas was the daughter of Reverend Dr. John O. Young, President of Centre College and his wife Frances A. Breckinridge Young. The Youngs sold to Leonard Tucker in 1895 and the farm remained in that family until 1929 when it was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Headley Shouse. Mr. Shouse was a member of a prominent central Kentucky family and was a leader in the farming industry of this area. Mrs. Shouse was a member of the Taylor family from Franklin County who made the well-known Old Taylor whiskey. Under the Shouses ownership, the house was known as "Trevilla." In 1978 the house and farm were purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Bunker Hunt and renamed Bluegrass Farm. Bluegrass Farm is comprised of seven farms totaling more than 7,500 acres. It represents the largest private land-holding in Kentucky. Bunker Hunt is the son of the late Texas oil billionaire, H. L. Hunt, and is well-known in international business markets. He is reputed to be the owner of more thoroughbreds than anyone else in the world and his light and dark green racing silks have been in the winner's circle at all the major tracks.

The house remains an important example of the architectural transition from Green Revival to Italianate and its decorative elements exhibit some of the fine quality of each period.

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED
UTM NOT VERIFIED

9. Major Bibliographical References

Fayette County Deed Books, Fayette County Courthouse.

Lancaster, Clay. Ante Bellum House of the Bluegrass. Lexington, Kentucky: University of Kentucky Press, 1961. pp. 143-144.

"Bunker Hunt's Comstock Lode," Time. January 14, 1980, P. 61.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 3 acres

Quadrangle name Lexington West, Kentucky

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	6
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7	1	1	7	2	0
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4	2	1	2	2	6	0
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B

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7	1	1	7	2	0
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4	2	1	2	0	6	5
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C

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7	1	1	6	7	0
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4	2	1	2	0	7	0
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D

1	6
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7	1	1	6	7	0
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4	2	1	2	2	6	5
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Verbal boundary description and justification (See Map 2) The boundary begins at a point (1) which is approximately 11 feet south of Versailles Road and 20 feet east of driveway edge and runs south along a line 650 ft. to point 2; then west along a line 200 ft. to point 3, then north along a line 650 ft. to the point of origin, thereby incorporating the house, ice house and

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

(continued)

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Richard S. DeCamp

organization Lexington-Fayette Co. Historic Commission date January, 1982

street & number 253 Market Street telephone (606) 255-8312

city or town Lexington 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Mary Ann O'Connell

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 4/27/82

For HCRS use only

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

Entered in the National Register

date 6/17/80

for Keeper of the National Register

Affect:

date

Chief of Registration

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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Cloud House
Fayette County, Kentucky

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

and hall with an egg and dart detailing on the outside rim. (Photo 10) The gracious staircase has an open stringer and decorative step ends. The spindels are round and sit on octagonal bases, the latter giving credence to the Italianate influence. The original high baseboards are intact with those on the first floor being higher and more elaborate. The ell has a dogleg staircase which reflects an earlier period with a simple Federal style newel. (Photo 11) The lower floor of the wing has been modernized into kitchen, pantry and bath. The kitchen has a large cooking fireplace which has been reworked.

On the west side of the main house are the brick ice and carriage houses. The ice house is in its original condition and is one of the few still remaining in central Kentucky. (Photo 12) The carriage house appears to be approximately the same era as the main house. (Photo 13) This building has been completely remodeled and sympathetically added on to by the previous owners to be used as a guest house and is now used as the office of Bluegrass Farm. Both of these outbuildings are included in this nomination.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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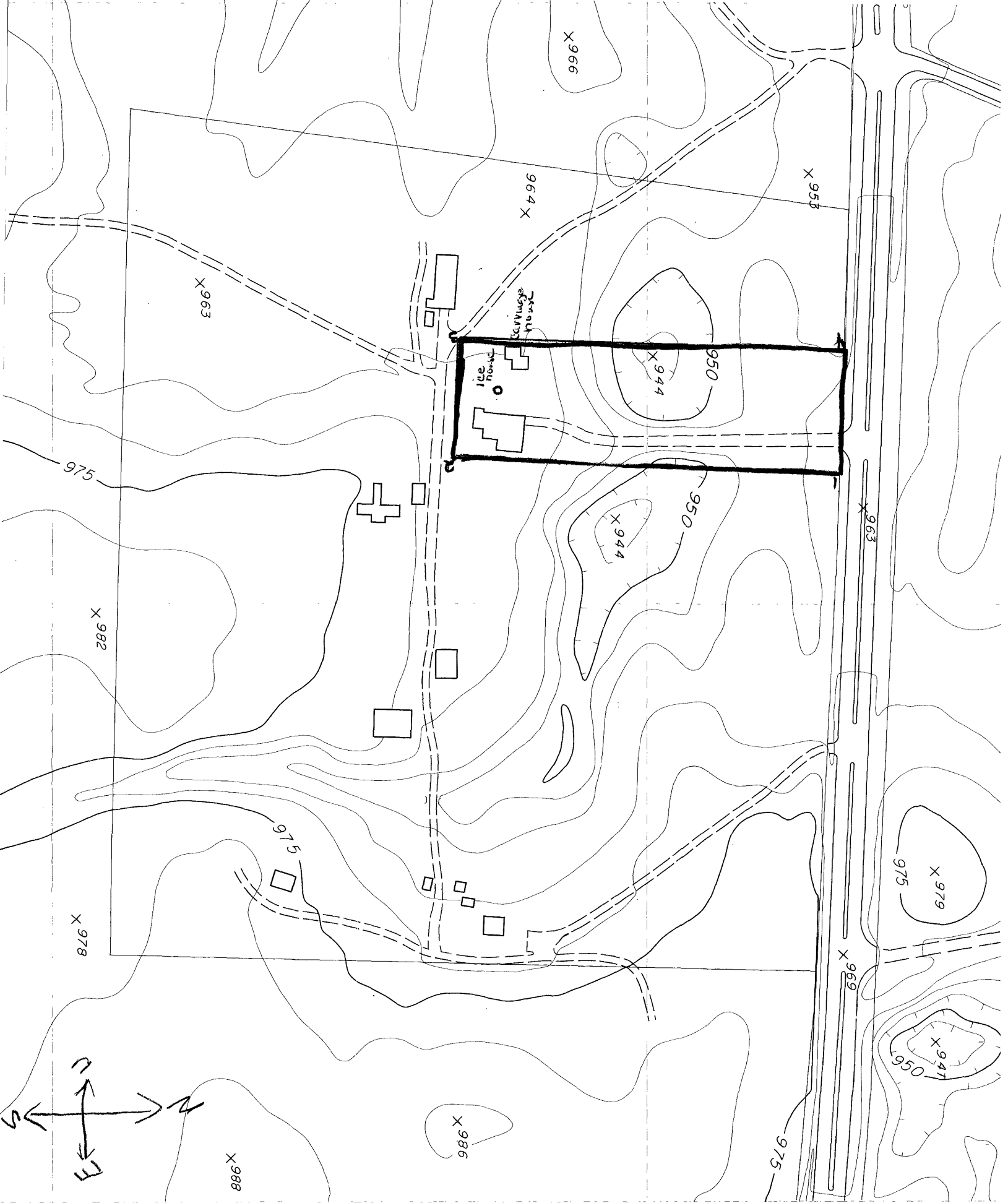
Cloud House
Fayette County, Kentucky
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

carriage house. The house sits on a slightly elevated plane, surrounded by open fields. The boundary is drawn to include the house and the frontage, or land to the south side of Highway 60. The boundary extends to the west to include the ice house and carriage house. No other buildings stand within the nominated area.

Justification

This rural complex has an attractive setting on a slightly elevated plane, surrounded by open fields. The boundary, therefore, extends northward to the south side of Highway 60 to include the formal approach to the house, important to the visual aspects of the nomination. The boundary extends westward to include the ice house and carriage house. No other buildings stand within the nominated area.

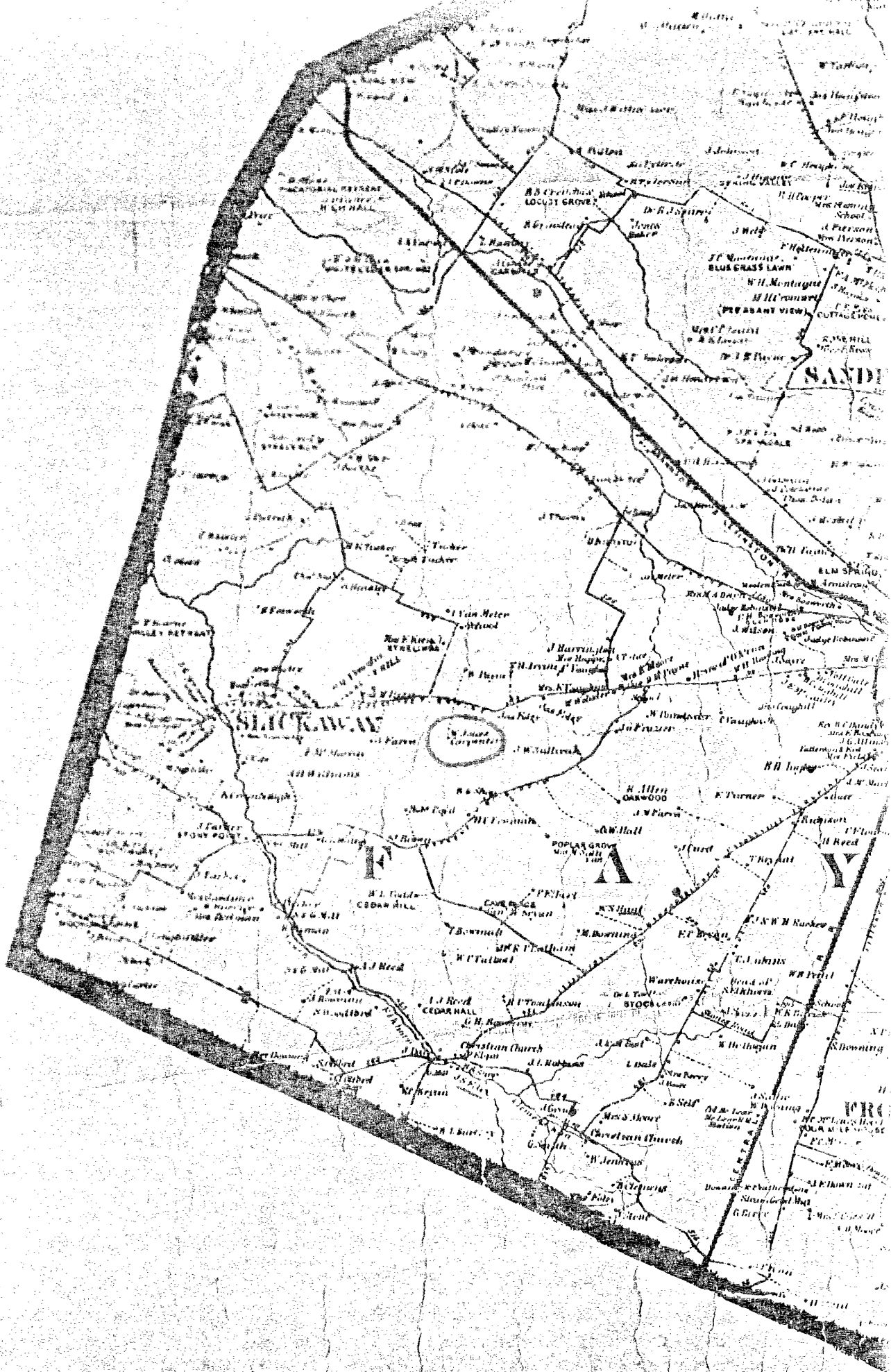


197,000N

198,000N

The Cloud House
Fayette County, Kentucky
Planning Commission Map
Current
Scale 1" = 200 ft.
Map 2 of 4

Nominated area shown in red.

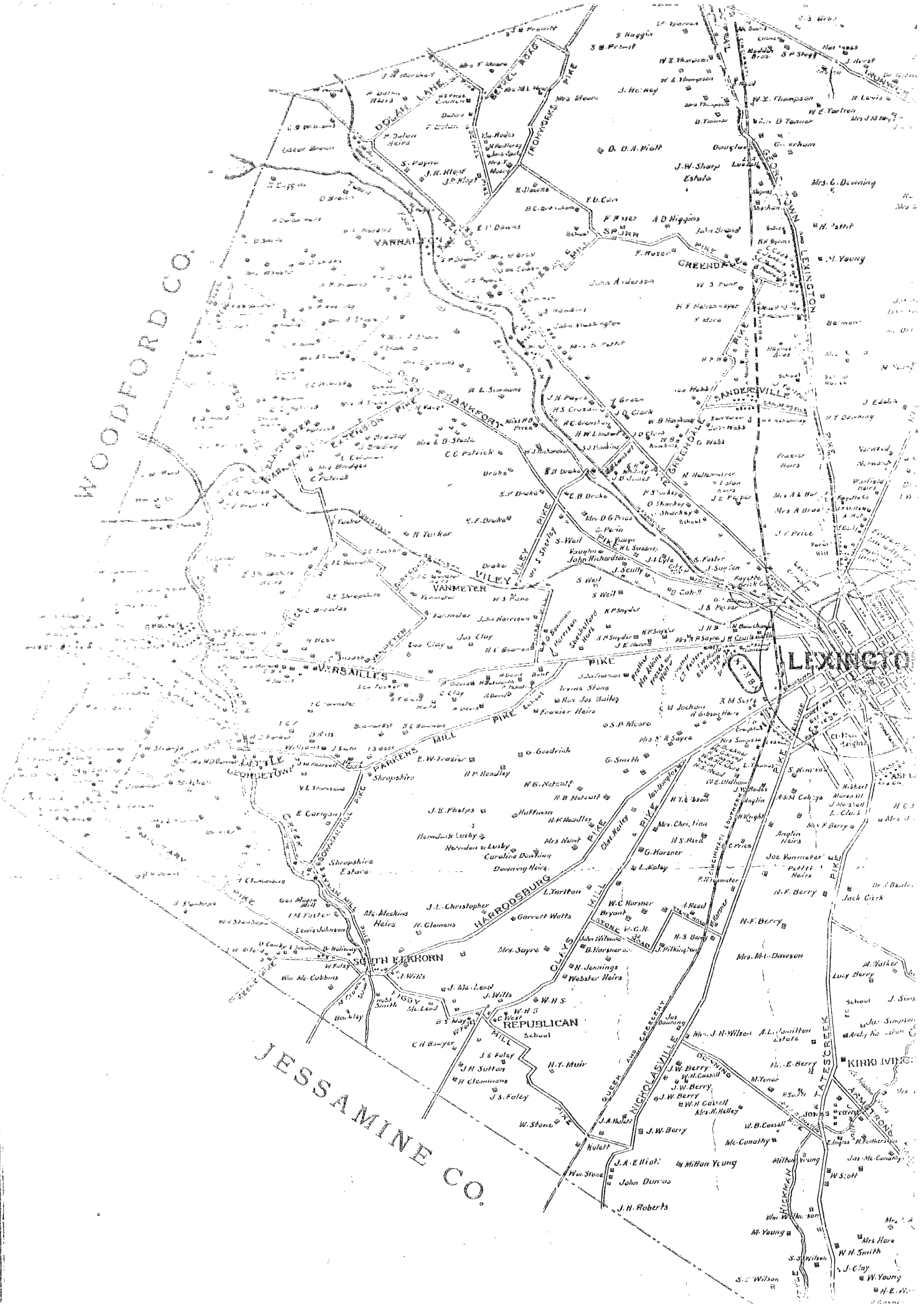


The Cloud House
Fayette County, Kentucky
Hart-Mapother Map of the City of Lexington
Fayette County
1861
Scale: Unknown
Map 3 of 4

WOODFORD CO.

LIXINGTO

JESSAMINE CO.



The Cloud House
Fayette County, Kentucky
J.P. Mullen and J. M. Corbin Map of
Fayette County, KY.
1904
Scale: 1 " = 4884 ft.
Map 4 of 4