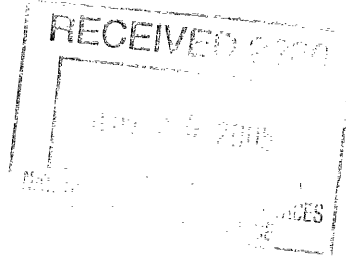


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**



**1. Name of Property**

Historic name **Cox, Carrie Gaulbert and Attila Cox, Jr. House**  
Other names/site number **Ledgelawn, JF-1006**

**2. Location**

Street & number **389 Mockingbird Valley Road** not for publication **N/A**  
City or town **Louisville** vicinity **X** State **Kentucky** code **KY**  
county **Jefferson** code **111** Zip code **40207**

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  X  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  X  meets   does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant   nationally   statewide  X  locally.

David L. Morgan  
Signature of certifying official **David L. Morgan, SHPO**

June 16, 2005  
Date

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

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

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

**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):

for Edson Beall  
Signature of Keeper

9/3/05  
Date of Action

**5. Classification**

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions Category	Current Functions Category
Single family residential	Single family residential

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification: Italian Renaissance

Materials Foundation - Limestone  
roof - Ceramic Tile  
walls - Balloon Frame with Brick Facade  
other - Marble

Narrative Description

SEE ATTACHED

### 8. Statement of Significance

- 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 important in prehistory or history.

#### Criteria Considerations

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

Areas of Significance : Architecture

Period of Significance 1905-1906

Significant Dates 1905, 1906

Significant Person NA

Cultural Affiliation NA

Architect Buildings Clarke and Loomis (Clarke, Charles Julian and Loomis, Arthur)  
Landscape designs by Olmsted Brothers; Cowell, Arthur; and Haldemann,  
Anne Bruce (Outside the Period of Significance)

Narrative Statement of Significance SEE ATTACHED

### 9. Major Bibliographical References SEE ATTACHED

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 #

Primary Location of Additional Data

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property: Approximately 3 acres

UTM References Jeffersonville Quad

Zone:16

Easting: 615 400

Northing: 4236 400

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The proposed boundaries encompass three of the original 17 acres of land purchased by the Coxes for the construction of their country residence, as recorded in Deed Book 5552, Page 955.

**Boundary Justification**

The proposed boundaries convey the significance of the architectural legacy of the Clarke and Loomis architectural firm at the Cox property. Historically designed for a 17-acre tract, the three acres proposed for nomination continue to convey the importance of placement and landscape considerations for this Italian Renaissance-styled house by architects Clarke and Loomis. The parcel contains the house designed by the firm, and portions of designed historic gardens and landscapes by the Olmsted Brothers, Arthur Cowell and Anne Bruce Haldeman (outside the period of significance).

**11. Form Prepared By**

Name/Title DONNA M. NEARY

Organization DONNA M. NEARY, INC.

1435 Willow Avenue Louisville, KY

502/456-9488

Date February 8, 2005

40204

**Property Owner**

Name Thom J. and Tinker Zimmerman

Street & Number 389 Mockingbird Valley Road

City or town Louisville State KY

Telephone 502/895-6619

Zip code 40207

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CONTINUATION SHEET  
Section 7 Page 1**

Carrie Gaulbert Cox & Attila Cox, Jr. House  
Jefferson County, Kentucky

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**Description**

The Attila Cox, Jr. House is located at 389 Mockingbird Valley Road in Jefferson County, Kentucky, nine miles east of downtown Louisville. The property is located in the unincorporated area of the county known as Mockingbird Valley. The Ohio River floods the surrounding area during high levels in the late winter and early spring. The River is approximately one-half mile north of the property.

The topography of the site was important to the placement of the house. The undulating landscape rises from Mockingbird Valley to a plateau where the house was placed. The flat area may have been engineered to accommodate the house and gardens. The house was designed by the architectural firm of Clarke and Loomis in the Italian Renaissance style.

This house is a three-story, balloon framed building with a Flemish-bond brick façade built in 1905-06. Most often completed in light-hued masonry, the brown brick chosen for the Cox House is darker than the norm. The building is topped by a low-pitched hipped roof, covered in ceramic tiles. The roof has wide over-hanging eaves accented with decorative brackets. Four chimneys puncture the roof, one in the center, one on the south, one the north and one on the east facades, decorated with corbelled caps.

Unusual features of the Cox house, unlike other Italian Renaissance-style houses, are the dormers on the upper story. This feature is more common to the French Eclectic style of architecture, popular simultaneously with the Italian Revival style. The window within the dormer is a Palladian-styled window with louvered shutters. The windows of the house were fitted with canvas awnings at least by the 1910s.

The details for houses built in the Italian Renaissance style are taken fairly closely from Italian original examples. The first story of the Cox house is taller than subsequent stories, following the Italian tradition. The main story is more ornate than upper stories. A limestone beltcourse, and brick stringcourse detail the house.

The central steps leading to the main entrance mimic the raised villas of Italy. Most commonly, houses of this architectural style are designed in a symmetrical fashion. This house features symmetry on both front and rear, major facades. A sun room is found on the west façade, and a frame, second-story sleeping porch on the east façade.

The central entrance on the approach (south) façade features an arched doorway, detailed in limestone. A second entrance on the approach façade features an arched alcove, and provides access to service areas of the house. The windows on the first floor are a combination of double-hung sash, and grouped casements with leaded, diamond mullions similar to the Tudor style.

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Carrie Gaulbert Cox & Atilla Cox, Jr. House  
Jefferson County, Kentucky

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A sun-porch is attached to the western façade. The outdoor room is frame construction with screens. A porch on the east façade is topped by an open, balustraded deck, on the second story. A brick garage is attached to the eastern façade by a covered walkway entry to the garage. The addition was made circa 1915 in the style of the original house.

The terrace (north) façade features a central entrance with a broken-pedimented entablature over a double door. This, the more formal of the facades, exits to a garden. The walkout terrace is marble, spanning the entire length of the façade with central steps down into garden. The marble balustrade was added outside the period of significance. The windows on the terrace façade are double-hung sash, and grouped casements, as on the approach façade. A Palladian-styled window is placed on the second story above the central entrance. Paired dormers puncture the roof.

Remnants of landscape plans [designed outside the period of significance] by Olmsted Brothers, Arthur Cowell and it is believed, Anne Bruce Haldeman remain. The parcel was reduced from its 17 acres to the present three acres in 1942, with the division of land by will of property owner J.B. Wathen, Jr. This three acre parcel was created at the time of the division between heirs Robert Norvelle Wathen and John Bernard Wathen, III. The will and future deeds provided the right of easement for use of the private roadway, driveway and utility easements to the three-acre parcel, landlocked by the division. However, the openness of subsequent landscape uses continues to provide open, shared vistas for the property.

The Approach Garden features the pool and stone wall designed by Cowell and completed circa 1917. The Zimmermans added two garden lanterns, and a pair of marble Fu Dogs at the entrance to the garden. Four Doric order columns were placed in the rear of the Cowell plan by the Zimmermans. They also added the fountain in the Terrace Garden in 2000.

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Carrie Gaulbert Cox & Attila Cox, Jr. House  
Jefferson County, Kentucky

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**Overview**

The Carrie Gaulbert and Attila Cox, Jr. House is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C, Architecture, for its portrayal of the work of masters. The Carrie Gaulbert and Attila Cox, Jr. House is being nominated within the context "Architectural Design by the Clarke and Loomis architectural firm in Jefferson County, Kentucky, 1891-1908." The firm brought their design expertise to a variety of projects in Jefferson County including residences, office buildings, institutional buildings and commercial buildings. Importantly among the residences in Jefferson County known to have been designed by Clarke and Loomis, the Carrie Gaulbert Cox and Attila Cox, Jr. House, completed circa 1905-06, is one of their final commissions as partners. This residence is significant for advancing our understanding of the work of this firm, regarded as one of the premiere Kentucky architectural firms during its tenure.<sup>1</sup>

The Carrie Gaulbert Cox and Attila Cox, Jr. House, designed as the first Italian Renaissance styles seen in Louisville by the groundbreaking firm, led the way for later works in the Italian Renaissance style by Arthur Loomis, and other architects. Importantly, the Carrie Gaulbert and Attila Cox, Jr. House is significant as the bridge between the partnership of Clarke and Loomis to the subsequent work of Arthur Loomis, in partnership and alone following the death of Charles J. Clarke. Recognized in their own time as an influential architectural firm, their buildings continue to be recognized by the architectural community as important to the development of engineering and aesthetic in Jefferson County.

**Research Design**

This is the first comprehensive scholarly research done to analyze the work of the firm Clarke and Loomis in Jefferson County, Kentucky. Charles Julian Clarke and Arthur Loomis have both been recognized individually and as a firm as influential architects in publications including the Kentucky Encyclopedia (1992), the Louisville Encyclopedia (2001) and the Louisville Guide (2004). This historic context was developed to provide a framework for assessment of the architectural design work executed during the collaboration and partnership known as Clarke and Loomis, comprised of Charles Julian Clarke and Arthur Loomis. Their individual projects informed this context, but are not treated at length.

The firm, in existence from 1891 to 1908, was responsible for a range of institutional, commercial and retail buildings which are considered here for this context. Sources for this context include architectural survey forms and reports, and National Register nomination forms. Period reports, newspaper and magazine clippings [Inland Architect, the Courier-Journal] and collections of historic photographs were consulted. Several modern guidebooks of architecture in Louisville also proved helpful in this research. Importantly, field visits were made to examine the extant buildings identified as the work of Clarke and Loomis.

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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Carrie Gaulbert Cox & Attila Cox, Jr. House  
Jefferson County, Kentucky

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Unfortunately, a check of statewide repositories yielded no archival collections of the firm's work. Regarding the Carrie Gaulbert Cox and Attila Cox, Jr. House, one sheet of the original blueprints, the terrace façade, is in the possession of the property owners. That sheet was made available for this study.

**The Architects: Clarke and Loomis (1891-1908)**

The architectural firm of Clarke and Loomis was a leader in Kentucky architectural practice, developing Louisville and environs into a thriving residential and commercial center at the turn of the twentieth century. Along with others such as Mason Maury, D.X. Murphy, William Dodd, John Andrewartha, Clarke and Loomis were responsible for bringing big city style and function to the buildings of Jefferson County, Kentucky.<sup>ii</sup>

Charles Julian Clarke (1836-1908) developed on the heels of early Kentucky-born architects Gideon Shryock and John McMurtry. Clark moved to Louisville from his native Franklin County to work with architect Henry Whitestone (1819 - 1893) during the Civil War. Whitestone designed most often in the Romanesque and Italianate styles of architecture. Whitestone was considered the eminent Kentucky architect by the end of his career. By 1881, following Whitestone's retirement, the baton was passed to Clarke who was considered Kentucky's top architect.<sup>iii</sup> Arthur Loomis (1859-1935) was born in Massachusetts, and grew up in Jeffersonville, Indiana. He joined Charles Julian Clarke as partner in 1891 forming the Clarke and Loomis architectural firm. Clarke, twenty years Loomis' senior, hired Loomis at the age of 17 in 1876 appointing him head draftsman in 1885.

The Louisville Cotton Mill at 900 Goss Avenue was designed by Clark in 1889, and shows restrained elements of Richardsonian Romanesque styling. Clarke designed Monk's Warehouse, a three-story, cast iron front building at 639 W. Main completed circa 1891-1900. The design is fairly restrained, and does not exhibit the exuberance of design of the Carter Dry Goods building designed by Clarke in 1878. Clarke and Loomis collaborated until the death of Clarke in 1908. Loomis then went on to collaborate with Julius Hartman. Loomis worked alone from 1920 until his death in 1935.<sup>1</sup> Among his most masterful and well-known projects are the Shelby Park Branch of the Louisville Free Public Library (1911), Norton Hall of the Baptist Theological Seminary (1926), and the Speed Art Museum (1927).



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Carrie Gaulbert Cox & Attila Cox, Jr. House  
Jefferson County, Kentucky

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**Historic Context: Architectural Design by the Clarke and Loomis architectural firm in Jefferson County, Kentucky, 1891-1908**

Louisville's growing modernity and technology, such as the new water works, telephone and telegraph system, widespread electricity and plumbing availabilities, enhanced transportation options and the arrival of elevators during the period of significance set the challenge for architectural firms seeking commissions. Architects were hired to develop plans for Chicago School-style office buildings, Italian Renaissance-styled estate houses, Colonial Revival-styled places of worship and monuments to commerce. The prosperity and optimism of the times created exciting aesthetic and technical challenges for architects working in Jefferson County.

Architectural trends and events in Chicago at the turn of the nineteenth century were greatly influential on the designs adopted in Kentucky, and by the Clarke and Loomis firm. The Chicago School of architecture became important as the city of Louisville required office and retail buildings in the 1880s and 1890s. The Columbian Exposition, held in Chicago in 1893 to celebrate the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of

Christopher Columbus' arrival to North America, showcased revival and classical styles. The buildings designed for the world's fair (and demolished immediately following the close of the fair) were designed in the Beaux arts, Colonial Revival, and Renaissance Revivals. The Colonial Revival styles seen at the Columbian Exposition was prevalent during the duration of the period of significance. The firm, adept at designing buildings using numerous architectural styles, was relied on by clients for aesthetic expertise. The documented designs of the pair are Richardsonian Romanesque, Collegiate Gothic, Neo-Colonial, Chicago School, and Italian Renaissance. Buildings in these styles primarily used smooth stone or brick for exteriors and featured raised foundations, balustrades, columns and cupolas. These buildings were balanced and symmetrical, and often monumental in scale.<sup>iv</sup> These styles were embraced by visitors to the fair, and were immediately adopted by architects working in Louisville, and Kentucky. The firm designed commercial, institutional and ecclesiastical, and residential structures using these styles.

The Renaissance Revival style of architecture was a particular favorite for Clarke and Loomis clients. This is not surprising based on the partnerships of Whitestone and Clarke, and Loomis' training within Clarke's office. The style had been created by H.H. Richardson for buildings in Chicago, and the northeast. Richardson died in the late 1880s before the age of fifty, and a monograph of his career was published. This, the first ever such document, was widely distributed and led to the imitation of the Richardson style throughout the 1890s. Importantly, the style was very expensive to create, requiring a solid masonry construction and was not a style that could be copied inexpensively.<sup>v</sup> The style was favored by clients in Old Louisville, and West Louisville.

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Carrie Gaulbert Cox & Atilla Cox, Jr. House  
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One of the first commissions by the firm was the DuPont Manual Training School at Second Street, completed in 1892. The school had been commissioned by Alfred Victor DuPont, philanthropist industrialist as a trade school for white boys. DuPont purchased the land for the school and commissioned the architects to design the building. The building is executed in the Collegiate Gothic style, popular for educational and ecclesiastical buildings. This style was begun in the Northeast for college campuses. Clarke and Loomis adopted the style, closely modeled on the original examples seen on the campuses of Bryn Mawr College and Princeton University.

The Levy Brothers building at 235 W. Market was completed by the firm in 1893. Clarke and Loomis began with a predominant Richardsonian style. However, the architects deviated from the pure style, as was their pattern, and integrated elements from other styles into the building. The building features French Renaissance inspired tile work, and fenestration patterns taken from the Chicago School of architectural design. The reddish-yellow masonry, terracotta tile work, and dominant tower stood out from other buildings in downtown Louisville.<sup>vi</sup> Moreover, the original combination of elements created a landmark building on a key corner of the downtown core. The addition of electric lights outlining all of the windows and doors of the building created a retail showpiece. The artful mix of elements for this, and other buildings by the team, created a style of buildings in Louisville recognizable as the work of Clarke and Loomis.

The firm designed the Louisville Medical College at 101 W. Chestnut in 1891-93. The four-story building was once again designed in the popular Richardsonian Romanesque style, featuring corner stair towers and a NPS dominant vertical orientation. Detailed stonework carvings of plants and animals accent the limestone building. The cross-gabled roof and dramatic arched entrance are reflective of architect H.H. Richardson, author of the style. Importantly, Clarke and Loomis used the popular style as their guide, but integrated their own sense of design and the uniqueness of place into their buildings, a pattern seen by the two throughout their collaboration.

The Todd Building put Clarke and Loomis into the spotlight as designers of the tallest building in Kentucky in 1902 with its completion. The Todd Building, at Fourth and Market Streets was the first steel-framed, fireproofed building in the Commonwealth. This building was a marked departure from the revival styles which had characterized their early collaboration. Designed in the Chicago School of architecture, the ten story office building was demolished in 1983 to make way for a parking lot. With this commission, the firm showed its ability to design in new materials and with an eye toward new styles, versus revivals. Moreover, the movement to a modern structure did not diminish demand for the revival styles, or their reputations for designing in the revival styles.

St. Peter's German Evangelical Church at 1231 West Jefferson Street is regarded as "the finest and almost the only surviving example of a group of late 19-th century churches in Louisville inspired by the work of the great American Architect H.H. Richardson." The church's tower is similar to the tower on the Louisville

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Carrie Gaulbert Cox & Attila Cox, Jr. House  
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Medical College building, and brings color to the building through its roof tiles. Both towers feature "beehive-like pinnacles." <sup>vii</sup> The attraction of Renaissance Revival was great for clients of the firm. It is unknown if the firm suggested the style as appropriate for those buildings they designed in the fashion, or if the success of their earlier works had led to the selection by clients.

Construction on St. Luke's Church at 1204 Maple Lane in Anchorage was begun in 1908, the year of Clarke's death. The building is designed in the Collegiate Gothic style, built of local Pewee Valley limestone. The building features a large, Norman-influenced bell tower, and a large, arched main entrance, commonly found on buildings designed in this style. The Collegiate Gothic style had remained a popular choice for churches and educational buildings since the completion of the firm's first commission, DuPont Manual School. DuPont Manual exhibits a pure design intent, with little deviation. St. Luke's on the other hand, is truly the Clarke and Loomis collaborative style, with a rustic, stone interpretation of Collegiate Gothic. The building's design embraces elements of the pure Collegiate Gothic style, while incorporating a Romanesque-like arch.

St. Paul's German Evangelical Church at 213 E. Broadway was completed after the death of Charles Clarke. The building was designed in 1905 in a neogothic style, and completed in 1911. It is regarded as one of "the finest ecclesiastical designs of Clarke and Loomis." <sup>viii</sup> The building features elements of the Tudor and Gothic styles, very much in keeping with the firm's approach to design. The dominant, square, corner bell tower is countered by large Tudor arches. The elements selected from several compatible styles created a pleasing result.

St. Matthew's German Reformed Evangelical Church is located at 607 E. St. Catherine. The building was designed and constructed between 1889 and 1908. The squat, heavy foundation and arched main entrance are taken from the Richardsonian Romanesque style of architecture. The corner bell tower shows elements of the late, or Collegiate Gothic style. Interestingly, the construction dates for this building span the duration of the partnership of Clarke and Loomis.

Best known among their residential commissions may be the Theophilus Conrad-Caldwell House located at 1402 St. James Court. Completed in 1894, the house is designed in the Richardsonian Romanesque style of architecture, a favorite of Clarke and Loomis and their clients. The building features a pyramidal roof and a corner towers and turrets. The limestone building features dramatic twisted and carved squat columns on the large front porch. Stonework features carved faces, animals, shells, fish and other creatures bring a whimsy to the stately house.

The Augustus E. Willson House at 1423 S. Fourth Street was completed in 1893. The three story house featured a low hipped roof with dentillated cornice. The building was a departure from the prevalent Richardsonian Romanesque style so commonly chosen by Clarke and Loomis clients. The flat front house features recessed doors, and decorative terracotta tiles over the second story windows. The house features

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Carrie Gaulbert Cox & Attila Cox, Jr. House  
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egg and dart stringcourses between the stories. The reserved, eclectic house uses elements from the Victorian era.

The George Moore House at 1633 W. Jefferson Street was built circa 1860. The house is believed to have been damaged by the 1890 Tornado, and enlarged in 1892 adding the large Richardsonian Romanesque style addition to the front façade. The ashlar stone house is accented by two towers, recessed double doors within a large arch. A house was designed for Samuel Ouerbacher at 1625 W. Jefferson Street in 1893. No longer extant, it is was similar to the Moore House, designed in the Richardsonian Romanesque style. The house was demolished for two Craftsman-inspired apartment buildings, joined by an interior courtyard by 1920.

The house designed for George and Hattie Gaulbert at 1322 Fourth Street was built circa 1893, designed by Clarke and Loomis. Mr. and Mrs. Attila Cox, Jr. lived with the Gaulberts, her grandparents. Carrie Gaulbert Cox and Attila Cox, Jr. House commissioned a house by Clarke and Loomis for their site at 349 Mockingbird Valley Road in 1905. The house was completed in 1906 in the Italian Renaissance style.

Dr. Joseph Winston's House at 11906 Ridge in the suburb of Anchorage was completed circa 1908. The building is the only Colonial Revival known to have been designed by the firm. The prominent full height portico is supported by four Doric columns. The symmetrical, frame, weather-boarded house features transom and sidelights at the main entrance. The house was designed with a separate entrance for patients visiting the doctor's office in the home. Mrs. Winston served as the organist at St. Luke's church, designed by Clarke and Loomis.

A residence built for John Alexander in 1893 at 1611 Second Street in 1902 has been demolished to make way for the Youth Performing Arts School. Also demolished is the George A. Robinson House designed in the 1890s and built at 1109 Fourth Street

**Carrie Gaulbert Cox and Attila Cox, Jr. House History**

Carrie Gaulbert Cox and Attila Cox, Jr. were living with Mrs. Coxes' grandparents, George and Hattie Gaulbert, in their home at 1322 South Fourth Street in 1905. Attila Cox, Jr. worked as an attorney in the firm Trabue, Doolan, & Cox in downtown Louisville. The residence in Old Louisville proved convenient for him and his wife to take part in Louisville social life.<sup>ix</sup> Mrs. Gaulbert, accompanied by the Coxes, moved to 1365 S. Third Street in 1908, following the death of her husband. Mr. and Mrs. Cox were listed as boarders in that year, but later city directories listed the Cox's house in Mockingbird Valley as their summer house, and the residence in Old Louisville with Mrs. Gaulbert as the winter residence.

The Coxes acquired a seventeen acre tract of land from Thomas and Annie Bullitt and the Lightfoot Land Company in 1905. The Coxes planned to build a country residence in a suburban area of the county, later known as Mockingbird Valley. Attila Cox, Jr. hired Clarke and Loomis to design a house for him and his wife Carrie Gaulbert Cox the same year.<sup>x</sup>

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Carrie Gaulbert Cox & Attila Cox, Jr. House  
Jefferson County, Kentucky

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The Carrie Gaulbert Cox and Attila Cox House was designed in the Italian Renaissance Revival style of architecture, a design movement which spanned the period 1890 through 1935 in the United States. The style was chosen primarily in major metropolitan areas in the period before the World War I, and served as architect-designed landmarks in the community.<sup>xi</sup> The Italian Renaissance style first appeared in New York City on houses designed by architects McKim, Mead & White in the 1880s.

The style was a marked departure from Gothic Revival, Shingle style and Queen Anne styled houses built earlier in the century. Mid-century revival styles spread through pattern books drawn by architects who had never personally seen the original Italian buildings and relied on their interpretations and second-hand descriptions. The Italian Renaissance style deviated from earlier romantic revivals because architects relied on authentic Italian buildings for inspiration. The Italian Renaissance style movement was promoted by architects and their clients who had visited Italy. The availability of photography brought a heightened authenticity to Italian Renaissance revival design in America.<sup>xii</sup>

The Italian Renaissance style was a less popular choice during the early twentieth century than Craftsman, Tudor or Colonial Revival styles. Architects designed houses in the Italian Renaissance prior to World War I in or near large cities. Into the 1920s elements of the style were adapted for interpretation by masons working in cast concrete. The style had gone out of fashion by the 1930s.<sup>xiii</sup>

One sheet of the architectural plans featuring the north, terrace façade, is in the possession of the property owners. The plan is nearly identical to what was actually built. The plan features the house as built, including the hipped-roofed dormers. The completed house deviates from the drawing at the central entrance. The terrace façade features a broken pedimented door surround. The drawing reveals a stone lintel with Corinthian order stone pilasters complementing the entrance. In addition, the stone decoration on the fenestration above the door is a slight variation on the design drawn by the firm. It is unknown how the changes between the drawing and completed house were determined. It is likely that the Coxes or the architects changed the design before or during construction, a common occurrence. Research did not yield information on builders identities associated with the construction of the house.

The site was engineered to accommodate the footprint of the house, and gardens, and the long, curvilinear approach. No records indicate an original landscape design or garden plan. However, the core concept of the Italian Renaissance style was, according to one architectural historian, "A Utopian metaphor in material form. It espoused grand architectural forms, sunlight, and formal gardens in place of steel and technology, and asserted itself as a vivid icon of 'civilized' Mediterranean, rather than regional American identity. With its evocation of luxuriously, dry habitable climates... it carried forward the passions of early twentieth century American 'Mediterraneanizers' for Edith Wharton's popular *Italian Villas and Their Gardens* published in 1904 and illustrations by Maxfield Parrish."<sup>xiv</sup> The importance of acreage to the execution of the Italian Renaissance

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Carrie Gaulbert Cox & Attila Cox, Jr. House  
Jefferson County, Kentucky

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style at the Cox House cannot be understated in its importance for conveying the concept of the country house, or villa.

The remaining three acres of land include the house and garage addition, drive and approach road lined with a small mortar-laid stone wall. Mature trees are planted between the house and the adjoining property lines to provide privacy and enclosure for the house and its residents.

The extant landscape and garden designs surrounding the house were designed by Olmsted Brothers and Arthur Cowell. The Olmsted firm was commissioned by the Cox family in 1916-17, ten years after the completion of the house, and also outside the period of significance. The resulting Olmsted Brothers designs are known as Plan #6557, and Plan #6362.<sup>xv</sup> Cowell's plans are believed to have been commissioned by the Wathen family who owned the house from 1922 to 1971, outside the period of significance.

**Integrity Considerations**

**Location**

The house continues to occupy a multi-acre site on a plateau in Mockingbird Valley.

**Feeling**

The house and its site appear very much as the house would have during its period of significance, and immediately after. Former residents would recognize the house and its surroundings.

**Setting**

The land surrounding the house continues to be in residential use. The approaching internal roadway remains in its original road bed.

**Association**

Fourteen of the seventeen acres originally purchased by the Coxes' at the time of the construction of this house is on a separate tract. However, the shared views of the adjoining properties continue to convey association of this house and the adjoining acres. The house continues to be associated with the broad expanses of lawn and the historic approach.

**Design**

The house appears to be the only Italian Renaissance-styled house designed by the Clarke and Loomis firm in Jefferson County. Few, minor changes have occurred to this house. A marble balustrade was added to the slate terrace, but the architect incorporated a style in keeping with the Italianate original design. The addition of a garage on the east façade is modeled on the style of the original construction, and appears as if built contemporaneously with the house.

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**Workmanship**

Craftsmen were employed to construct this house. The masonry and stone work are excellent. Subsequent owners have maintained a high level of maintenance and upkeep for this building.

**Materials**

The best materials available were used for the construction of this home. The affluence of the property owners is apparent in the level of detail and the quality of building materials.

The Carrie Gaulbert Cox and Atilla Cox, Jr. House is a fine example of the work of Clarke and Loomis, regarded as the premiere architectural firm in Louisville during its tenure. Together, the team designed commercial, residential, institutional and ecclesiastical landmarks in the Louisville community. This house, the only known example of Italian Renaissance undertaken by the firm, continues to convey the work of masters in its design, workmanship and materials. The house is important for its ability to convey the quality of design.

**Conclusion**

It is important that the team of Clarke and Loomis were responsible for designing the ground-breaking, first steel-frame, fireproofed building in the Commonwealth, the second skyscraper, known as the Todd Building in downtown Louisville in 1902, and three years later designed the Carrie Gaulbert Cox and Atilla Cox, Jr. House in the Italian Renaissance Revival style billed by its proponents as the antithesis of "steel and technology."<sup>xvi</sup> These architects possessed the ability to design in a range of styles and for a broad range of uses. Their mastery of architectural design is evident in their body of work found in Jefferson County. The design of the Cox's Country Residence was the antithesis of the now demolished steel-framed skyscraper, the Todd Building. Moreover, it is this range of ability and aesthetic that underscores the mastery of Clarke and Loomis. These architects catered to their clients desires for highly-styled buildings.

The team of Clarke and Loomis showed adeptness and aesthetic originality. The pair introduced new architectural styles to Louisville and the region, adapting them to the Ohio Valley Region. The firm's designs for Louisville took into account the southern climate and often humid, unforgiving summers. Building designs originated in the northeast, such as Collegiate Gothic, Neo-Colonial, Italian Renaissance, and the Midwest such as the Chicago School, and Richardsonian Romanesque, were fitted with porches, and sunrooms, and designed with awnings, and recessed entrances. It is through their collaboration that Clarke's greatest designs were realized and Loomis' skills as an architect were brought to full exposure. The work of Clarke and Loomis merged their skills to create lasting, masterful, artistic interpretations of numerous architectural styles.

The Carrie Gaulbert Cox and Atilla Cox, Jr. House is significant for its ability to convey the enduring architectural expertise of the architectural team of Clarke and Loomis. The Carrie Gaulbert Cox and Atilla Cox, Jr. House is an important component of the architectural legacy from Clarke and Loomis, and it is through a synthesis and understanding of their collaborative works that we understand the importance of the firm to the community. The mastery of the architects spanned the spectrum from nostalgia and revival to modernity in office towers, as the desires of their clients led them.

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**ENDNOTES            Page 1**

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- <sup>i</sup> Kentucky Encyclopedia, p. 527.
  - <sup>ii</sup> Luhan, et. Al. Louisville Guide, pp. 18-20.
  - <sup>iii</sup> Kentucky Encyclopedia pg. 198
  - <sup>iv</sup> Kentucky Encyclopedia, p. 29-30
  - <sup>v</sup> Howe, p. 259
  - <sup>vi</sup> Falls of Ohio Preservation, p. 58
  - <sup>vii</sup> Falls of Ohio Preservation, p. 69.
  - <sup>viii</sup> Luhan
  - <sup>ix</sup> Caron's City Directory, 1906.
  - <sup>x</sup> Clarke and Loomis Architectural plan, 1905.
  - <sup>xi</sup> McAlester, pg.397-98
  - <sup>xii</sup> Howe, p. 302
  - <sup>xiii</sup> McAlester, p. 398.
  - <sup>xiv</sup> Howe, p. 303.
  - <sup>xv</sup> Louisville's Olmstedian Legacy.
  - <sup>xvi</sup> Howe, p. 302.



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**PHOTOGRAPHS Page 1**

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All Photographs Share the Same Information:

Photographer: Donna M. Neary

Date: March 14, 2005

Location of Negatives: Property Owner

1. View of South façade, facing North
2. View of East façade, facing West
3. View of East facade, garage addition, facing Northwest
4. View of East façade, Entrance detail, facing Northwest
5. View of West façade, facing Southeast
6. View of West façade, Entrance detail, facing North
7. View of West façade, Sun porch, facing East
8. View of Approach Garden, facing Southwest
9. View of Terrace Garden, facing Southwest
10. View of Site, facing South
11. View of Site, facing Southeast
12. View of Site, South façade of house, facing Northeast