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7.	DESCRIPTION								
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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IT KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Loudoun House, originally the home of Francis Key Hunt, was designed by New York architect <u>Alexander Jackson Davis</u> in 1850 and constructed by John McMurtry, a local architect-builder, at a cost of \$30,000. Davis called the project "A Design in Early English or collegiate Style," but today we would call it an example of the Gothic Revival in architecture. Loudoun House is known as one of the largest and finest of its kind in Kentucky, if not in the South.¹

The walls of Loudoun House were of hollow brick construction, making use of an air space for insulation. The brick pattern repeated four stretchers and one header, and the walls were covered with successive layers of sand and paint to resemble stone. Copings, hood molds, and sills are of cut stone. The galleries are of wood with iron crestings. An unusual feature is the half tunnel which encircles the main foundations of the house, to eliminate moisture from the footings of the walls, and gives them added stability. The house is long and shallow, the forms building up irregularly to the principal tower to the right side of the entrance pavilion. The arcuated front doors, banks of windows, and oriels have lozenge panes. The drawing room windows and hall windows are filled with enameled glass in grape designs. The sky line of the house is very interesting with groups of chimney stacks, crenelated tops to the tower and turpet, parapet walls rising above the roof, and pinnacles on the important gables.

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The entrance to Loudoun is through a level-crown vaulted porch. The porch opened to the left side to the umbrage, paved with a gray and white tessellation of marble. "The first feature one meets inside is the massive staircase of darkwood ascending halfway up one wall and across the back of the main hall. A cutout apron is pendant from the outer edge of the soffit of the staircase. The hall ceiling is crisscrossed with ribs, and the beam spanning the stair well springs from grotesque protomes molded in plaster. The twenty by thirty foot drawing room at the west end of the villa is lighted by a great curved oriel and twin opening at front and back, the windows and louvred shutters of which slide back into pockets in the wall. Shutters elsewhere fold into special recesses. The walls of the drawing room were stenciled 'al fresco' in a large floral pattern of 14th century Italian inspiration, and the squares between the crossed ceiling beams painted in geometric designs."³ The gilded lambrequin that fitted over the arch to the oriel pair of matching mirrors in perpendicular style, and the marble mantel originally in the drawing room at Loudoun have since been removed. "Behind the hall in Loudoun

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the illustrations used in books written by A.J. Downing, the Hudson River author whose work was most influential in formulating and disseminating Gothic Revival ideas throughout the United States."¹ The Davis drawing for the white marble mantel in Loudoun House is preserved in the print room of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City along with the plans and other detail and section drawings for Loudoun House.²

Also significant is the fact that Loudoun House was constructed by a well-known and local architect-builder, John McMurtry (1812-1890). The popularity of the Gothic Revival in the Bluegrass, was due toothe activites of McMurtry. He produced over two hundred buildings in the Bluegrass, most of them residents.³ Between 1870 and 1889 Loudoun House was the home of Colonel William Cassius Goodloe who served as chairman of the national committee of the Republican Party and was later appointed Minister to Belgium by President Hayes.

(SEE CONTINUATION SHEET)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES	
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1. Clay Lancaster - Ante Bellum Houses Of The BlueGrass(Lexin	ngton, 1961)
2. Elizabeth M. Simpson, Bluegrass Houses and Their Tradition	ns
Lexington, 1932.	
3. Sydney S. Combs, <u>Our Proud Heritage</u> (Lexington, 1950)	
4. Rexford Newcomb, Old Kentucky Architecture (New York, 1940	0)
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6. Clay Lancaster,"Three Gothic Revival Houses At Lexington,	1, 1900)
Journal of the Casisture County Revival Houses At Lexington,	
Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians, January-	June
1947 - pages 13-21. (See continuation Sheet)	
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12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION	
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As the designated State Liaison Officer for the Na-	
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Form 10-300a (July 1969)	UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE	state KENTUCKY		
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		FOR NPS USE ONLY		
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(Number all entri	es) # 7 DESCRIPTION			

is the library, lighted by a bay window in the far wall, with full-length bookcases to either side and also next to the red-brown stone chimneypiece and over the opposite door. Glass doors are diamond-paned. The ceiling in this room is divided into sections by ribs connected to attenuated colonnettes along the walls. The parlor, across from the drawing room, has an alcove in the base of the tower. Engaged polygonal piers stand to the right and left of a Tudor arched fireplace, with spandrels carved in a leaf design similar to that used in the wood doorframes throughout the living area of the house. The centerpiece in the parlor is an acanthus and flower motif. In the dining room is a flat mantel of the same polished stone as that in the library, with recesses for china and silver to either side. The parlor and dining room are mutually accessible to a rear hall, outside of which is the long back gallery. Pantries, kitchen, laundry, and service stairhall complete the first-floor plan. A water closet is at the foot of the service stairs on the first floor, and another is directly above it. Ceiling heights downstairs are normally fourteen feet, two feet more in the drawing room, and somewhat less in the east wing; the ceilings of the chamber floor average twelve feet. The principle bedrooms have adjoining dressing rooms. Servants' chambers are over the service rooms. Stairs ascend to garret and tower."4

Today the galleries have been removed, minor changes have been effected about the parapets, and a gymnasium has been built at the back. The frescos in the drawing room have plastered and painted over.

1. Lancaster, Clay-Ante Bellum Houses In The Bluegrass, University of Kentucky Press, Lexington, Kentucky, 1961; page 121.

- 2. <u>Ibid</u>. Page 122-123
- 3. <u>Ibid</u>.
- 4. <u>Ibid</u>.



Form	10-300a
(July	1969)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

STATE KENTUCKY

COUNTY

INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

FAYETTE

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

(Number all entries)

8 Statement of Significance

1. Lancaster, Clay - <u>Ante Bellum Houses Of The Bluegrass</u>, University of Kentucky Press, 1961, page 115

2. <u>Ibid</u>. pp. 120, 123.

3. Ibid. Pp. 116-117



Form	10-300 a
(July	1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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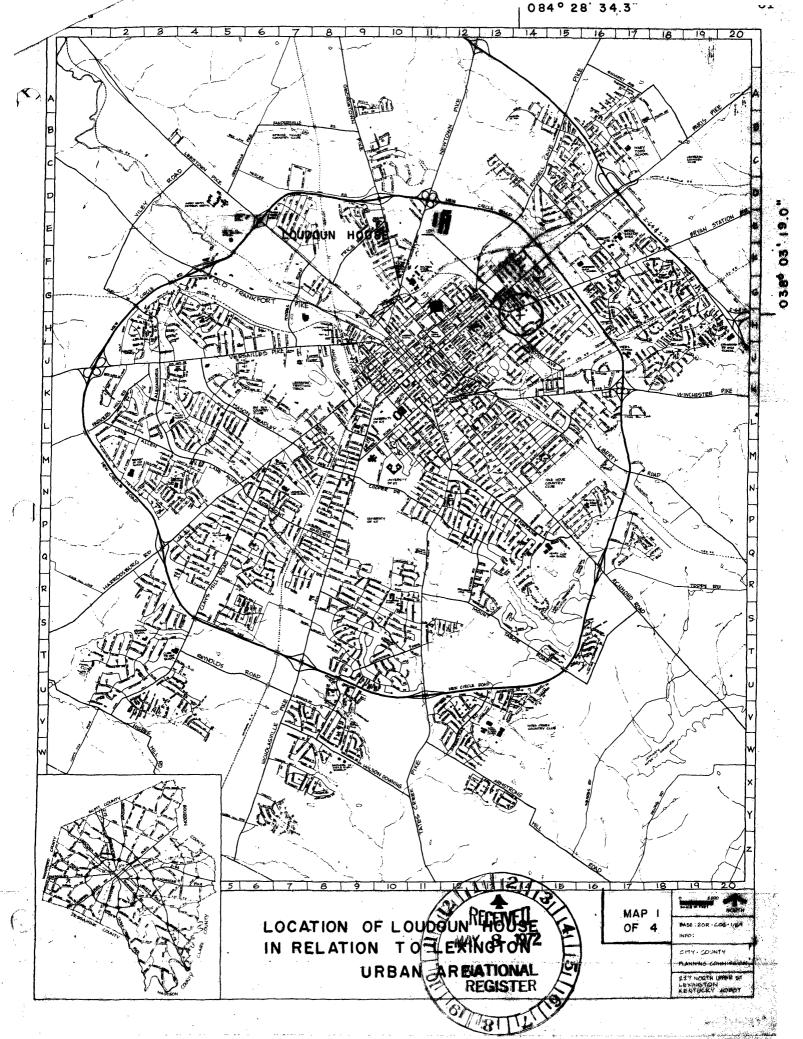
<u># 9 Bibliographical References</u>

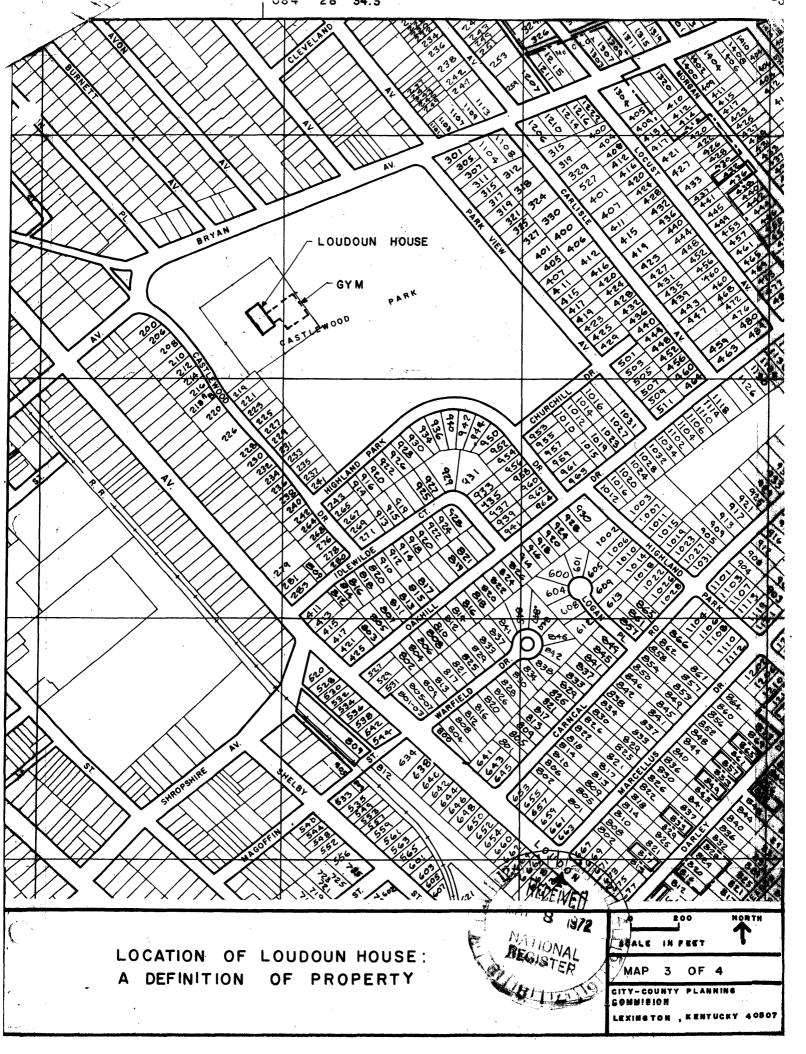
7. Clay Lancaster "The Home of Francis Hunt", <u>Antiques</u>, January, 1950, pp. 42 - 44.

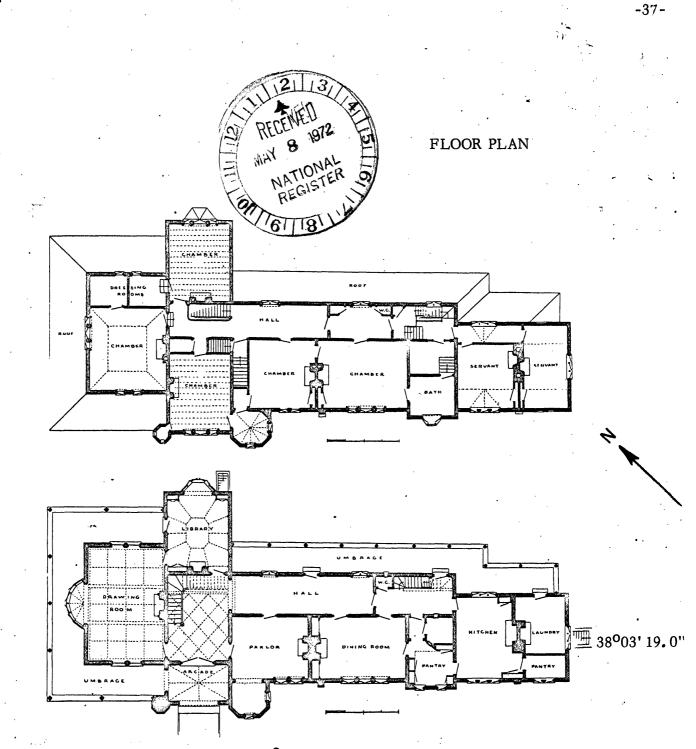
8. Clay Lancaster, <u>Back Streets and Pine Trees: The Work of</u> John McMurtry, Nineteenth Century Architect-Builder of Kentucky (Lexington, 1956)

9. City-County Planning Commission, <u>Historic Survey And Plan For</u> Lexington and Fayette County, Kentucky, (Lexington, 1970).



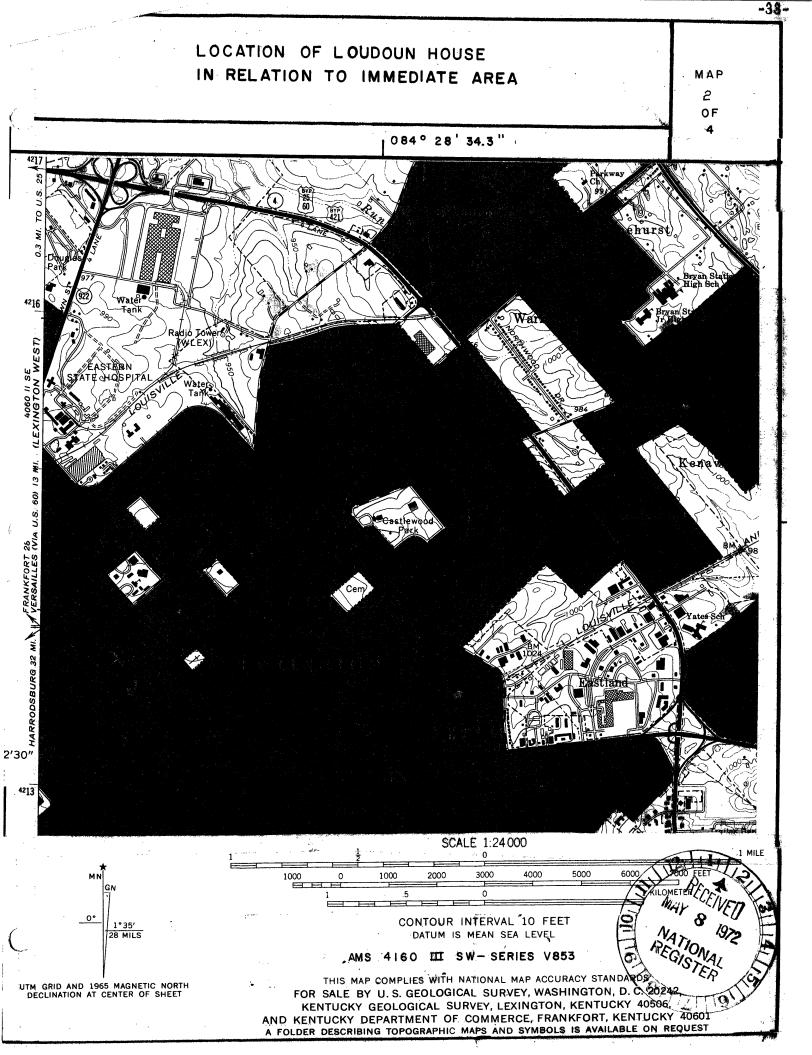


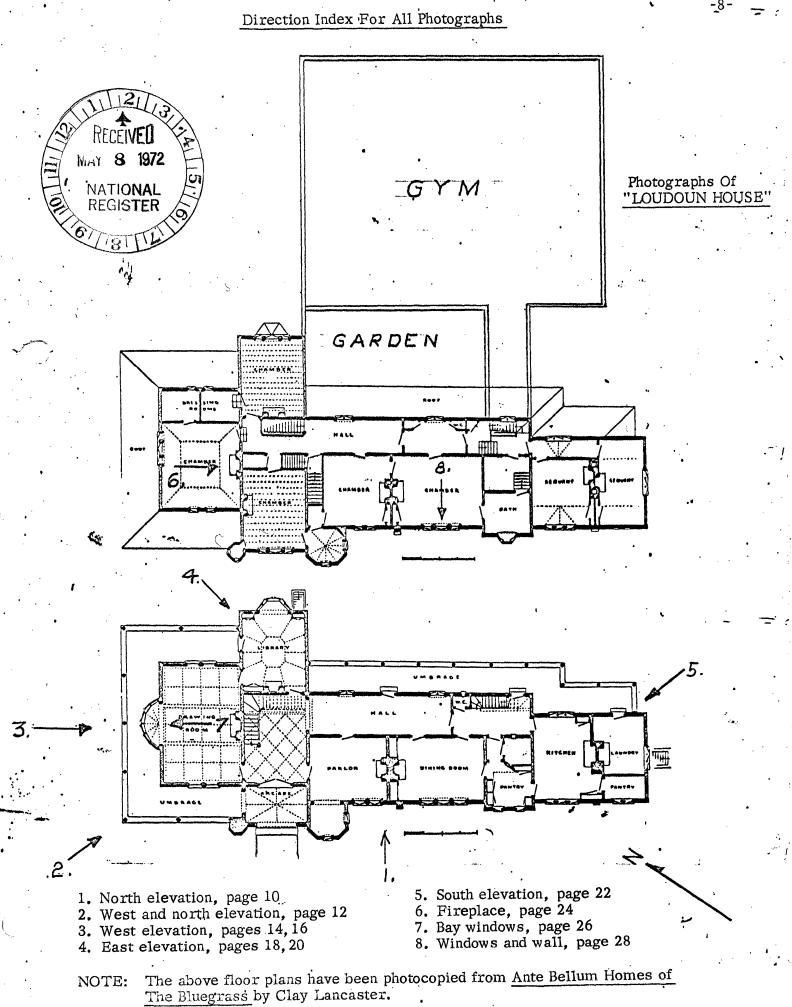




084⁰ 28' 34.3"

Note: The above floor plans have been photocopied from <u>Ante Bellum Homes of the</u> Bluegrass by Clay Lancaster.





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