

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUL 11 1975
DATE ENTERED APR 22 1976

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
* * Hurricane Hall (Quarles-Thomson House)
AND/OR COMMON
Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER *N of Lexington off US 25*
Georgetown Pike
CITY, TOWN Lexington *me* VICINITY OF
STATE Kentucky CODE 021 COUNTY Fayette CODE 067
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 06

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	<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 Stanley D. Petter, Jr.
STREET & NUMBER P. O. Box 11220
CITY, TOWN Lexington VICINITY OF STATE Kentucky

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Fayette County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER Main Street
CITY, TOWN Lexington STATE Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (cont'd)

TITLE Historic Survey and Plan for Lexington & Fayette County
DATE 1970 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Lexington-Fayette County Planning Commission
CITY, TOWN Lexington STATE Kentucky

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The original section of Hurricane Hall, which predates 1800, is a two-and-one-half-story brick block, four bays in width (see photo 1); the use of four bays (two in the upper and lower hall areas) seems to preclude the likelihood that a symmetrical two-story addition to the left was intended originally. The roof has a full denticulated cornice with modillions that extend up the gables. There are two interior chimneys on the east end wall. The windows on the facade are twelve-over-twelve-pane glass downstairs and six-over-nine upstairs. (The diminution of upstairs windows on axis with the lower ones was an old Virginia practice, noted by Clay Lancaster in Ante Bellum Houses of the Bluegrass, but it was usually accomplished by a subtlety in dimension rather than the reduction of number of panes in both directions as here.)

The first floor is divided into a parlor, dining room, and fifteen-foot wide stairhall, a feature of early houses that perhaps represents a last survival of the medieval living-hall (see Lancaster's plan). A fireplace at one time was located in the front section of the hall (believed to have been removed when a wing was added to the west side). Three rooms are on the second floor with the staircase continuing to the garret around a square opening.

The treatment of the stair and other millwork is a virtual casebook example of pre-1800 residential architecture in Kentucky (photo 3). The stair rail in the hall is simple with decorated step ends. Chair rail remains.

The surviving wood trim in the parlor shows the elegance achieved by early craftsmen (photo 4). Bettye Lee Mastin in her article on the house (Herald-Leader, February 3, 1974) states: "Hurricane Hall is rare in Fayette County in that its oldest section has a paneled chimney breast, gougework cornices and window frames with unusual reentrant angles."

The antique hand-blocked wallpaper in the parlor is one of the most significant features of the house (photo 4). The colors are still remarkably bright and clear. It is known that wallpaper was sold in Lexington as early as 1793 at the emporium of Joseph Hudson. That of the Hurricane Hall parlor was hung to celebrate the wedding of Sarah Ann Eliza Quarles to a cousin, William Z. Thomson, in 1817, when presses to either side of the chimney breast were removed to provide enough surface for full display of the panoramic scene. However, a little too much space was provided so it was necessary to put the fragment cut out for the hall door on the right side of the chimney. The wallpaper, a sweeping Italian pastoral, has Roman ruins in the foreground with a body of water and a Renaissance city in the background; figures and domesticated animals are scattered throughout.

Of the other rooms and the porch attached to the rear of the main block, Miss Mastin writes, "The dining room and two upstairs rooms retain cupboards of unusual charm.... A back porch retains another rarity, an early scalloped cresting with pendants trimmed with tulip-like cutouts" (see photo 2). Presses on the side of the fireplace in the room

(continued)

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 checked="" 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 c. 1794; 1805; c. 1840s

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built in three or more phases between circa 1794 and the 1840s, Hurricane Hall is called by historian Clay Lancaster "the most engaging residence in Fayette County of which a part predates 1800" (Lancaster, p. 33). Various details of its construction may reflect medieval characteristics, such as the disregard for symmetry in the positioning of the front doorway and its wings, lack of emphasis on trim around openings, and the prominence of the stairway in the large hall. The original portion of the house is rare in Kentucky in having decorated cornices on the exterior and interior and is important architecturally for the survival of the paneled chimney breast, and door and window frames with reentrant angles. The second-floor cupboards with dangling pilasters are unique in the state. A later significant feature is the hand-blocked wallpaper added to the original parlor in 1817 in honor of the wedding of two members of the Quarles-Thomson family that owned the place for six generations.

The original block was built by David Laughead (or Langhead or Lawhead) on property located on the South Fork of Cane Run, seven miles north of Lexington. In 1805 Roger Quarles and his wife Jane Thomson, emigrants from Spottsylvania County, Virginia, purchased the house along with 190 acres of land. It is believed they added the wing to the immediate left of the main mass soon after the sale.

Quarles came to an area in the Bluegrass which by 1800 was already settled. The county was formed in 1780 by the State of Virginia and is one of the three original counties that at one time comprised the whole district of Kentucky. The surface of the county is very gently undulating, the soil rich and productive, and has proved excellent for the raising of stock (Collins, p. 263).

Six generations of the Quarles-Thomson family have lived in Hurricane Hall. Roger Quarles, the first generation of his family to farm the land, gave one square acre on the Ironworks Pike for the Cane Run Baptist Church; he and his family were among the original members of that church (conversation with Thomson R. Bryant, grandson of Patrick Henry Thomson, April 24, 1975; Peter, p. 863). Roger's will, probated in 1856, left Hurricane Hall to a grandson, Patrick Henry Thomson, who married Julia N. Farnsworth, daughter of a president of nearby Georgetown College, the Reverend B. F. Farnsworth. They had twelve children and reared nine; it was probably to house this growing family that a one-and-a-half-story wing was added in the 1840s and another single room in the 1850s. The Thomson children and others "especially those unable to obtain

(continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Lancaster, Clay. Ante Bellum Houses of the Bluegrass. Lexington, Kentucky, 1961, pp. 24, 25, 26-27, 33-35.
- Mastin, Betty Lee. "Hurricane Hall was Begun in the 18th Century." Lexington Herald-Leader. February 3, 1974, p. 50.
- McCarry, Charles. "Heart of the Bluegrass." National Geographic, Vol. 145, No. 5 (May 1974), p. 65l. (continued)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than 10 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,6	7,1,5,9,2,0	4,2,2,3,5,6,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mrs. James Park, Jr.

GM

ORGANIZATION

Lexington-Fayette County Historic Commission

DATE

May 15, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

187 Market Street

TELEPHONE

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 National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Eldred W. Milton

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 7-8-75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Acting

Kevin L. Jones

DATE

4/22/76

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST

Charles A. Brown

DATE

4.12.76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 6

PAGE 2

Hurricane Hall

Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky
1970 State
Kentucky Heritage Commission
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

Hurricane Hall

over the parlor are decorated with dangling over-drawers; one of the dangling pilasters terminates in a candle bracket. At chair-rail level is a pull-out writing shelf.

A one-and-one-half-story wing, added shortly after 1805, adjoins the west side of the house and is flush with the main block facade. In this section, a stairway between walls leads from the back room up to the small second floor rooms. A front porch with chamfered posts and benches was added after 1805 but was removed when the Petters bought the house in 1962.

In the 1840s another one-and-one-half story wing was added, set back quite a few feet from the earlier wing. In the 1850s a wing with a single room which no longer exists was built adjacent to it. This was entered from a rear gallery behind the 1840s addition.

A brick kitchen ell attached to the east rear of the main house is thought to be of very early construction. The base of the chimney is of stone; the interior opening extended the full width of the rear wall.

Originally there were a number of outbuildings, some of which remain. A brick schoolhouse, constructed circa 1840, with scalloped eaves, is located approximately thirty feet behind the main house. An early 18th-century log "overseer's" house sits to the rear of the schoolhouse, approximately 80 feet from the main house (the former slave cabins are gone). A smokehouse is approximately 70 feet directly behind Hurricane Hall; the springhouse is approximately 100 feet due west of the house. There is also a family cemetery located on the grounds west of the springhouse.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

Hurricane Hall

an education elsewhere" were taught by a school teacher from New England in a private school maintained by the family for thirty-five years in a small brick building that still survives near the house. According to family tradition the house received its name because of the turmoil and comings and goings of Patrick Henry Thomson's large brood. The last members of the Quarles-Thomson family to own and live in the house were Mr. and Mrs. John Atkins Stevenson and their children, James and Betsy Banks. In 1962 Stanley Petter, Jr., and his family bought the house and farm, they have carefully restored its beauty and architectural integrity and contributed to the "image" of Hurricane Hall with their four lively children, numerous dogs and horses, and constant stream of visitors while at the same time maintaining a working farm.

In conclusion, the old brick house, with its picturesque massing and outbuildings reflective of the functional demands of 19th-century family life, was described by Elizabeth Simpson as belonging "to yesterday. It is a sort of last frontier, resisting the relentless invasion of modernity." (Simpson, quoted in Lancaster, p. 50.)

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 2

Hurricane Hall

Newcomb, Rexford. Architecture in Old Kentucky. Urbana, Illinois, 1953, p. 50.

Peter, Robert. History of Fayette County, Kentucky. Ed. by William Henry Perrin,
Chicago, Illinois, 1882, pp. 526-527, 863.

Simpson, Elizabeth M. Bluegrass Houses and their Traditions. Lexington, Kentucky,
1932, pp. 263-267.

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MAY 31 1977
DATE ENTERED
DEC 16 1977

Highland Hall

CONTINUATION SHEET

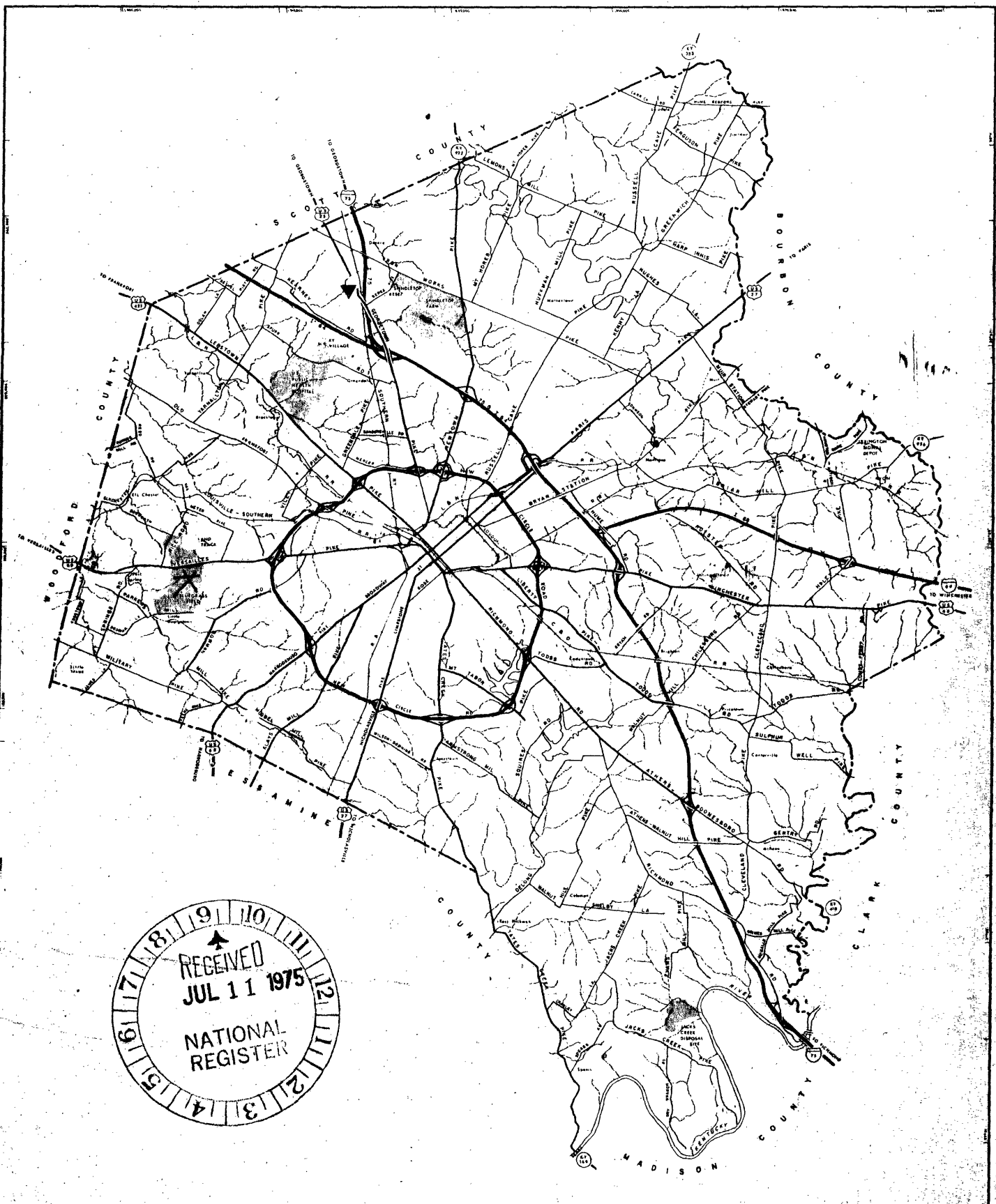
ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 2

Behind the east parlor is the main stair hall whose unadorned open staircase (see photo 10) gracefully winds and rises to a landing from which all second story rooms including the east gallery are accessible. The auxiliary connection for the two floors is a closed quarter-turn with landing staircase in back of the dining room.

The original flooring of yellow poplar has been retained, and the interior's only major alterations have been the installation of modern bathroom and kitchen facilities and the addition of a first floor bedroom off the original pantry.

A hip-roofed square smokehouse of brick built at the same time as the house is fifty feet to the southeast. Also surviving is a large splash stone at an outside corner of the kitchen (see photo 11), a brick walk laid in herringbone pattern on the east (see photo 12), a limestone bench on the north lawn, and a portion of a stone fence at the property's entrance at the north (see photo 13).



12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
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ALL PURPOSE STREAMS
 AGRICULTURAL STREAMS
 7 AGRICULTURAL STREAMS

OTHER TREATMENT PLANTS
 CITY OPERATED TREATMENT PLANTS

INFO: AP-
 DATE: 11/20/75
 CITY-COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
 227 NORTH UPPER ST. LEXINGTON, KY.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Hurricane Hall (Quarles-Thomson House)

AND/OR COMMON

Same

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Lexington

— VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Fayette

STATE

Kentucky

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE

County Map, City-County Planning Commission

SCALE

1' = 2 Miles

DATE

1973

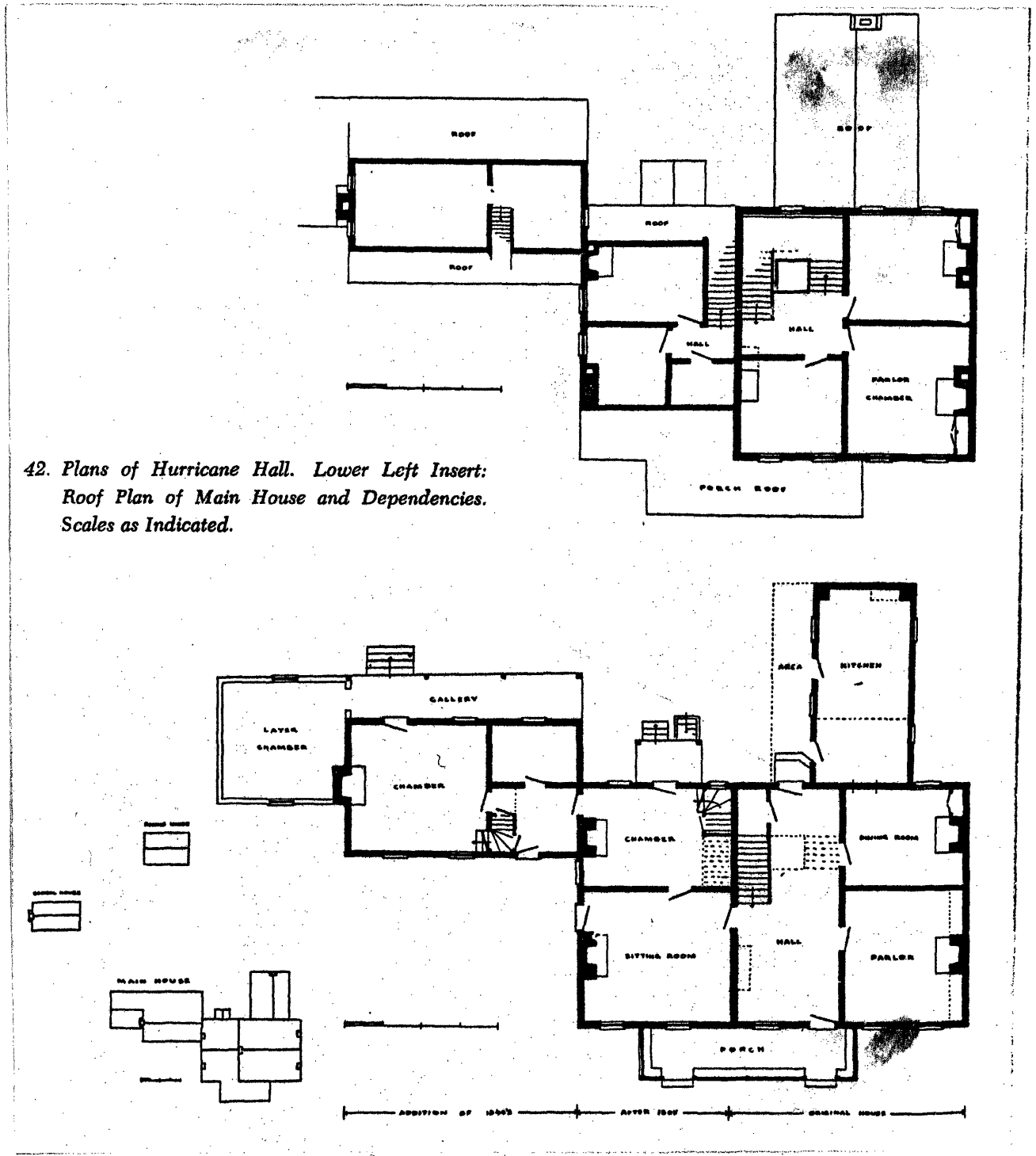
4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES

Location marked by a black triangle in the northwest quadrant of the county.





42. Plans of Hurricane Hall. Lower Left Insert:
 Roof Plan of Main House and Dependencies.
 Scales as Indicated.

Line Drawing from
 Clay Lancaster's Ante Bellum Houses of the Bluegrass

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Lexington

— VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Fayette

STATE

Kentucky

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Clay Lancaster, Ante Bellum Houses of DATE OF PHOTO

the Bluegrass (Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 1961, pl. 42.

NEGATIVE FILED AT

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO. 7

Perspective and plans of Hurricane Hall restored conjecturally to its condition in the mid-1840s.



Loncaste, Britt Bellum, "Alburn" (u.p.)

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3 PHOTO REFERENCE

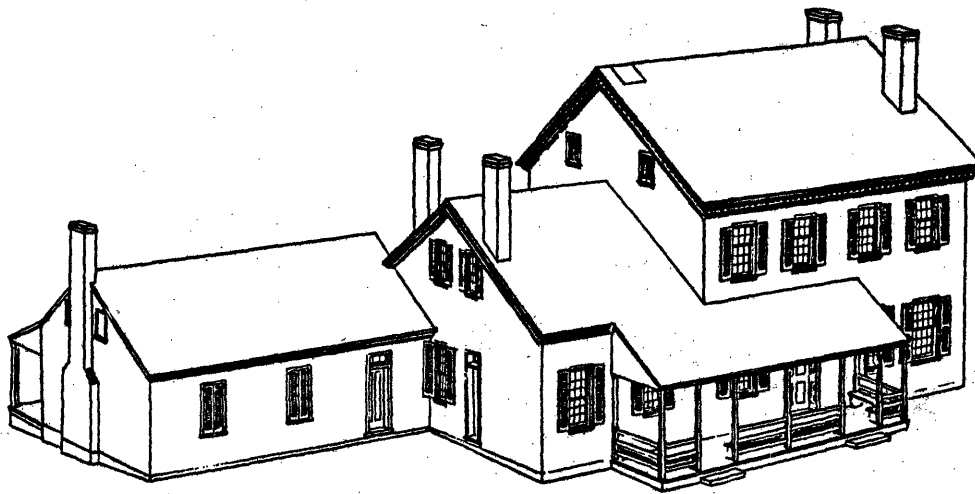
PHOTO CREDIT

Lancaster, Ante Bellum, "Album" (u.p.)

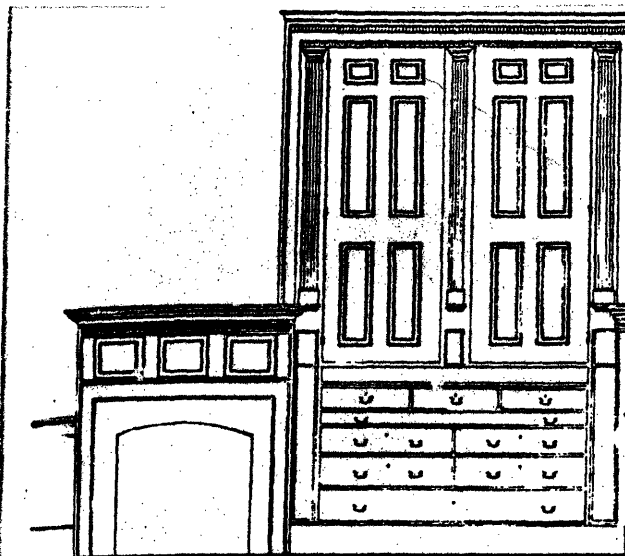
DATE OF PHOTO

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44. Hurricane Hall in mid-1840's. Restored.



43. Mantel, Presses, and Built-in Drawers in North-east Chamber, Hurricane Hall.

Line Drawings from
Clay Lancaster's Ante Bellum Houses of the Bluegrass

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3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

Clay Lancaster, Ante Bellum Houses of

DATE OF PHOTO

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PHOTO NO.

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NPS Number 4/26/76
Title: Hurricane Hall