

PH0073365

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Kentucky
COUNTY: Fayette
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE DEC 27 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
Thomas January House

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Bank of the U.S.; Episcopal Theological Seminary Building;

2. LOCATION **Tobias Gibson House**

STREET AND NUMBER:
437 West Second 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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" 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	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

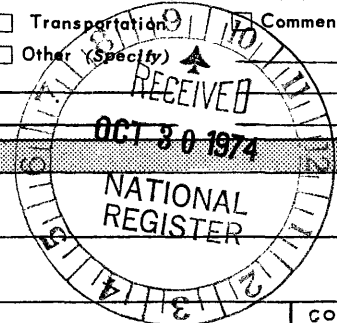
OWNER'S NAME:
Mr. and Mrs. John T. Higgins

STREET AND NUMBER:
110 Eastin Road

CITY OR TOWN:
Lexington

STATE:
Kentucky

CODE:
021



5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Fayette County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Main at Cheapside

CITY OR TOWN:
Lexington

STATE:
Kentucky

CODE:
021

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: (see continuation sheet also)
Historical Survey and Plan for Lexington & Fayette County

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

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DATE:

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Thomas January House, constructed in the early 1800s on the north side of West Second Street about midway between Broadway and Jefferson Street, has seen many changes during its long existence. Originally the brick building consisted of a two-storied central mass three bays wide and two rooms deep with the chimney between, a narrow stairhall to the east (in the rear chamber to the right, as one faces the house), and a low porch across the front. Wings extended to the side and back embracing a rear court.

In 1846 architect Thomas Lewinski was called upon by the owner to make "proposed alterations and improvements." Lewinski devised the monumental tetrastyle portico of fluted Ionic columns, and very likely combined the front room and passage into a single large reception hall.

Two years later John McMurtry was engaged to demolish the west rear (former chapel) wing, and to heighten the flanking wings and service ell into two full stories, a gallery of equal height to be built across the rear of the house and along the ell. According to Clay Lancaster, "The front wall was carried up above the cornice height of the shallow portico, which gave the house an impressive appearance. Clusters of octagonal chimney stacks rose atop the masked roof. The windows were enframed by cast-iron moldings with Greek ears.

'Besides the additional rooms on the second floor, the principal internal improvement carried out by McMurtry was removing the partition between the two parlors in the right wing and substituting 'an Entablature supported by handsome Ionic Columns fluted also Pilasters against the wall.' The architect likewise was 'to run around said Parlor Ceilings A Handsome & appropriate cornice in Plaster and Put up in each ceiling an appropriate Center Piece in Plaster furnished in Good style & Taste.' The centerpieces were modeled on the Lafever design. . . . Egg-and-dart took the place of the cornice modillions. Twin marble mantels were brought from Louisiana by the owner to be installed in the parlors. Access to the gallery could be had through the tall rear windows.

'Now a large house, the building contained a library back of the reception hall, a pair of rooms for dining opposite the parlors, and an entry, pantry, kitchen, and scullery in the ell. Chambers on the upper floor corresponded roughly to the

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **c. 1810; 1846; 1848**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The original building at 437 West Second Street was constructed in the early 1800s for Thomas January, a prosperous merchant and influential early citizen of Lexington. His father, Peter January, listed as a landowner in the 1781 census, was one of the pioneer settlers of the city. He and his son, Thomas, were involved in the manufacture of hemp and bagging on the west side of Mill Street, between Second and New Streets. Thomas also operated a mercantile store opposite the courthouse. He was a member of the Lexington Light Infantry, a town trustee, instrumental in the founding of the Transylvania Library, and active in various other public affairs.

The house was acquired by the Bank of the United States in 1820 and became the home of the Episcopal Theological Seminary in 1834. Tobias Gibson, a wealthy cotton planter from Louisiana purchased the property in 1846 and moved there with his family. It was at this time that the first remodeling of the house was undertaken, directed by Thomas Lewinski, an architect who was also the son-in-law of Henry Clay and a major under General John Hunt Morgan of the Lexington Rifles in the Confederate Army. His other work in Lexington includes the reconstruction of Henry Clay's home, Ashland, Christ Church Episcopal (oldest church building in Lexington), the Henry Clay monument in the Lexington Cemetery, Glengarry, the front addition to Cassius Clay's White Hall, the Second Presbyterian Church, and other important Lexington residences.

The second remodeling was under the direction of Lewinski's brother-in-law John McMurtry (1812-1890), a prominent architect-builder of the era. His other work in Kentucky includes Ingleside, Elley Villa, Botherum, Kentucky School for the Deaf, St. Peter's Catholic Church, Lyndhurst, the Lexington and Ohio Railway Station, and many others.

(continued)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Lancaster, Clay. Antebellum Houses of the Bluegrass. Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 1961, pp. 86-87.
 Coleman, J. Winston, Jr. Historic Kentucky. Lexington: Henry Clay Press, 1968, p. 102.
 Staples, Charles R. History of Pioneer Lexington, Kentucky 1779-1806. Lexington: Transylvania Press, 1939, pp. 12, 43, 47, 49, 58.

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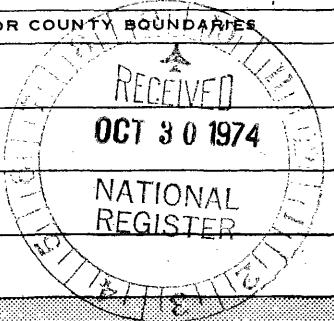
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE			LATITUDE		LONGITUDE
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	38°	3'	09"
NE	°	'	"	84°	29'	54"
SE	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **0.625 acre**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Mrs. George L. Foster Mr. Lynn Cravens G.M.

ORGANIZATION: Ky. Heritage Commission Bluegrass Trust for Historic Preservation DATE: July, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER: 1635 Ashwood Road Route #5, Walnut Hill Pike

CITY OR TOWN: Lexington STATE: Kentucky CODE: 021

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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 10-24-74

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

[Signature]
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 12/27/74

ATTEST:
[Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date **DEC 26 1974**

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STATE	Kentucky	
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	DEC 27	1974

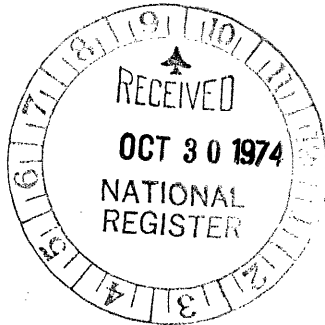
(Number all entries)

Thomas January House

6. Representation in Existing Surveys (continued)

Page Two

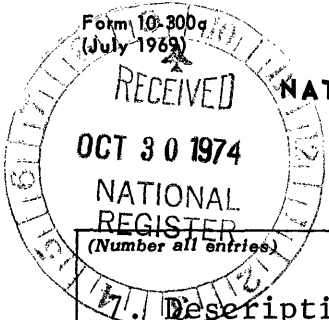
Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky
1974 State Supplement
Kentucky Heritage Commission
401 Wapping Street
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601



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Thomas January House

7. Description (continued)

Page Two

rooms below. A narrow passage extended from the stairhall to the southwest bedroom, and a dressing room was inserted between the chambers over the dining rooms. Space for a bathroom was provided over the pantry.

"Later changes to the Gibson house included plate glass in the windows and terracotta hood molds over the front openings. More recently, concrete disks have replaced the column bases." ¹

Other alterations not included in the Lancaster description include curved balconies on the lower level of the facade and delicate railings under the upper windows. The terracotta hood molds also mentioned have Greek dentil molding to match the cornice and fill the gap between the window and molding.

At the turn of the century the house became the Campbell-Hagerman College for girls and later part of the Lexington Conservatory of Music. Still later it was divided into apartments.

Fortunately the area in which the January House is located does not compromise the integrity of the site. It is near Gratz Park, three blocks from the courthouse and one block from Transylvania College. In the immediate vicinity, the structure is surrounded by homes of approximately the same age.

¹Clay Lancaster, Ante Bellum Houses of the Bluegrass (Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 1961), p. 86.

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Thomas January House

8. Significance (continued)

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There were several buildings behind the main house, one of which was used by Joel T. Hart (1801-1877), Kentucky's noted sculptor, as his first studio. Gibson and his family resided there until 1854, when the property was sold to George Washington Sutton, son of David Sutton, extensive Lexington property owner. In 1867, Frank Bissick, an Englishman, purchased the mansion. Thomas Bradley acquired it in the early 1870s, and it passed through several hands, including those of Frank M. Smith and Joseph Clark. In 1903 Professor B. C. Hagerman bought the house and conducted the well-known Campbell-Hagerman College here, a select school for young ladies. Later the Lexington Conservatory of Music was located here. The house is presently owned by Mr. and Mrs. John T. Higgins and rented as apartments.

The structure is an early example of adaptive alteration and addition, having been used as a residence, an educational institution, then again as a single residence, and presently as a multiple-unit dwelling. In the process it has undergone stylistic changes, the original modest Federal exterior being enriched in at least two stages by two of Lexington's leading mid-century architect-builders. Lewinski's Grecian "improvements" were enlivened and given an Italianate flavor by McMurtry; although both elements are clearly visible, the hybrid remains impressive.

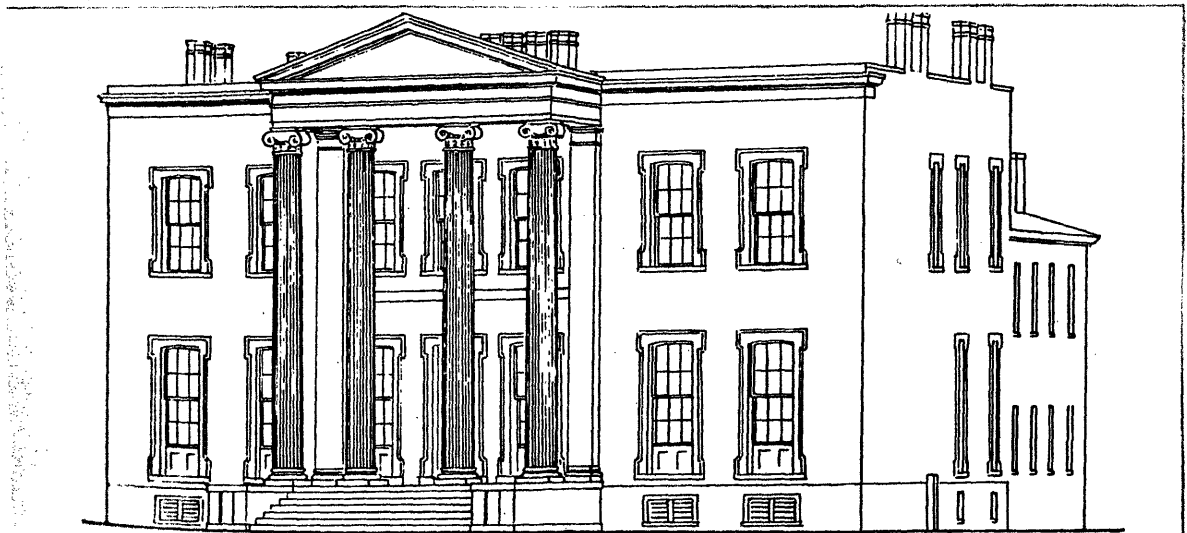


Lancaster, Clay. Ante Bellum Houses of the Bluegrass. Lexington:
University of Kentucky Press, 1961



114. *Episcopal Theological Seminary, 1834-1846.*
From a Contemporary Lithograph.

p. 86



115 *Gibson House after the Remodeling of 1848.*

p. 87

