

1978

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Van Horn - Ross House
other names/site number OL-364

2. Location

street & number 138 Rosswoods Drive N/A not for publication
city, town Pewee Valley N/A vicinity
state Kentucky code KY county Oldham code 185 zip code 40056

3. 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)	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: Historic Resources of Pewee Valley, Ky. MPL
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official David L. Morgan Date 10-9-89
State Historic Preservation Officer, Kentucky Heritage Council
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register. Entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet. 11/27/89

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Italianate

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone/limestone

walls wood/weatherboard

roof asphalt

other wood/shingle

wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Suburban Development
Architecture

Period of Significance

1870 - 1900

Significant Dates

ca. 1870

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS): na
 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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:
 State historic preservation office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other

Specify repository:
Kentucky Heritage Council

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 3.66 acres

UTM References

A 16 63 16 20 42 4 15 00
Zone Easting Northing

B _____
Zone Easting Northing

C _____

D _____

Crestwood, Kentucky Quadrangle

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary coincides precisely with lot "Pewee Valley 2-2-16-3" as drawn in the Oldham County Plat Books. It is outlined with a heavy black line in an accompanying sketch map.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the nominated property includes the entire historic acreage still associated with the house. This boundary has been selected in order to document the house's setting and extant historic landscape elements.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Carolyn Brooks, Historic Preservation Consultant
organization _____ date July 30, 1989
street & number 1288 Bassett Avenue telephone 502 456-2397
city or town Louisville state Ky. zip code 40204

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Van Horn-Ross HouseSection number 7 Page 1Description

The Van Horn-Ross House (OL-364) is an imposing c. 1870 Italianate house in Pewee Valley within in the area of the Historic Resources of the Pewee Valley Multiple Property Listing. The two-story wood-framed house sits on a three-and-one-half-acre lot which retains some of its historic landscaping. The nominated area coincides with the three-and-one-half-acre lot. A driveway leading from Rosswood Drive circles in front of the house; a secondary drive leads to a garage building at the rear of the house. This non-contributing building, built in 1984, is the only outbuilding on the property. Grass and large shade and pine trees are clustered on the informally landscaped property. The present lot is surrounded on three sides by Rosswoods, a 1970s subdivision that was laid out on much of the forty acres once associated with the Van Horn-Ross House.

The asymmetrically planned house has a limestone block foundation and weatherboard siding. Its almost flat roof is detailed at the eaves with a bold cornice consisting of a band of overscale dentils interspersed with large scroll brackets. A flat-roofed central front tower that extends a full story above the main roofline has paired round-arched and segmentally-arched windows on the second and third floors, respectively.

The main front entrance, located in the first floor of the tower, is a covered vestibule with a large segmentally-arched opening with drip molding on the outside and a massive round-arched door with round-arched sidelights and a hood molding highlighted by a central keystone on the inside. Most windows are four-over-four double hung sash with drip moldings that terminate in diamond-shaped stops. A one-story bay window is located on the south side. In the late nineteenth century a large one-story porch that wraps around the front and south side, a second-story front balcony, and a hood over the second-floor tower windows were added to the house. The porch, originally screened-in and later glassed-in in the early twentieth century, has a low exterior wall finished with hexagonal shingles and wood lattice work above. The shed-roofed balcony and hood are detailed with the same shingles. A two-story rear kitchen and bedroom wing also dates from the late nineteenth century.

On the interior, the house retains its historic plan and much of its historic finish. Rooms open off a central stairhall which is detailed with paneled wainscoting. Door frames are shouldered surrounds. Mantels include round-arched iron mantels and elaborate carved wood mantels with columns. The front parlor has a plaster crown molding. An ornate pressed metal ceiling in the original dining room is believed to have been installed in the late nineteenth century by the first owner after an attic cistern leak destroyed the original ceiling.

The house is located near the center of an approximately pie-shaped lot and faces onto a broad expanse of lawn. The driveway loop that circles in front of the house is original; the path of the remainder of the drive was altered

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Van Horn-Ross House

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somewhat when the subdivision was laid out. The majority of the lot is level although it slopes off steeply on the north side near Rosswood Drive. Very tall pine trees flank the house and other mature pines and shade trees are grouped near the edges of the property. Several large trees that shaded the front lawn have died and been removed in recent years. The non-contributing two-story, two-car garage with weatherboard siding and a gambrel roof was built in 1984 and is located behind the house.

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Van Horn-Ross HouseSection number 8 Page 1Statement of Significance

The Van Horn-Ross House (OL-364) is an important residential property in Pewee Valley individually nominated as part of the Historic Resources of Pewee Valley Multiple Property Listing. The c. 1870 house is eligible for the National Register under Criteria A and C. The house is a good example of the property type residential buildings which was developed as part of the historic context, "Suburban Development in Pewee Valley, 1851-1935." It has been evaluated to meet the registration requirement established for individual listing in the residential buildings property type. Its period of significance extends from about 1870 when the house is believed to have been constructed through 1900 by which time several important changes to the house are believed to have been made.

In terms of Criterion A and the area of significance, Suburban Development, the Van Horn-Ross House is important as a manifestation of the rapid suburban development that occurred in Pewee Valley in the years immediately following the Civil War. The house was one of the largest and grandest built during these years and helped to establish Pewee Valley's character as an upper class suburban community. The house, looking very much as it does today, is featured in the c. 1909 publication, Beautiful Pewee Valley, which used photographs of some of the most elegant houses in town to promote Pewee Valley as both a summer and year round community.

In terms of Criterion C and the area of significance, Architecture, the Van Horn-Ross House is important and one of three fully-developed Italianate style houses in Pewee Valley. This nationally popular style is found infrequently in Oldham County, except in Pewee Valley. There it has been identified in the residential property type description as one of the principal styles associated with Pewee Valley's early country estates. Although the Italianate styling of the Van Horn-Ross House is partially obscured by the late nineteenth century addition of a front porch, balcony and tower hood, the great majority of the exterior massing and detailing is unaltered. The roofline, fenestration, front tower with its original front door and surround, and windows with their drip moldings and diamond-shaped stops are still in place. In all probability a hall-width front porch similar to that at the Dr. Thomas Peebles House in Pewee Valley has been removed. On the interior many of the original features including mantels, staircase, door and window surrounds, and hall paneling are still in place. The present porch and balcony, both in place by 1903 when the Ross family purchased the house, have gained significance in their own right. The huge screened-in (now glassed-in) porch and the balcony were no doubt constructed in order to take fuller advantage of the summer living that was such a key component of Pewee Valley life.

The Van Horn-Ross House occupied a small portion of what was originally a forty-acre property first developed in 1856 by William H. Walker, a Louisville

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businessman. Walker's house burned in 1863. Between 1866 when Walker sold the land and 1870 when John D. Van Horn bought it the property changed hands at least three times. It is presumed that Van Horn built the present house although possibly one of the interim owners, Jonas H. Rhorer and Charles B. Cotton, both Pewee Valley land speculators, or Dr. J. E. Helm was responsible.

John Van Horn, a wealthy businessman who served as general superintendent of the Western Union Telegraph Company in Louisville commuted to work from his Pewee Valley residence during the early 1870s. He served on the Pewee Valley City Council from 1871 to 1874. The 1880 census lists him as living in Pewee Valley, although he no longer appears to be working in Louisville. In 1903 he sold the property to the William Ross family who intended to use it for a summer home but soon moved there permanently. William Ross, an executive with a Louisville seed company, served intermittently on the Pewee Valley City Council from 1904 to 1908. A son, Herbert Ross who continued to live in the house until the late 1970s, was an accomplished painter who studied in Chicago, New York and Paris with other artists of note.

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Bibliography

Beers and Lanagan, Atlas of Jefferson and Oldham Counties. Philadelphia, 1879. Plate 53.

Hinton, Phylis. Interviewed by Carolyn Brooks at her home. December 7, 1989.

Louisville City Directories. Miscellaneous editions from 1858 through 1910.

Louisville Past and Present: Its Industrial History. Louisville:M. Joblin Co., 1875, pp.153-155.

Oldham County, Kentucky. Deed Books.

Also see the Historic Resources of Pewee Valley, Kentucky Multiple Property Listing bibliography.

VAN HORN - ROSS HOUSE
Pewee Valley, Oldham County, Ky.

SKETCH MAP

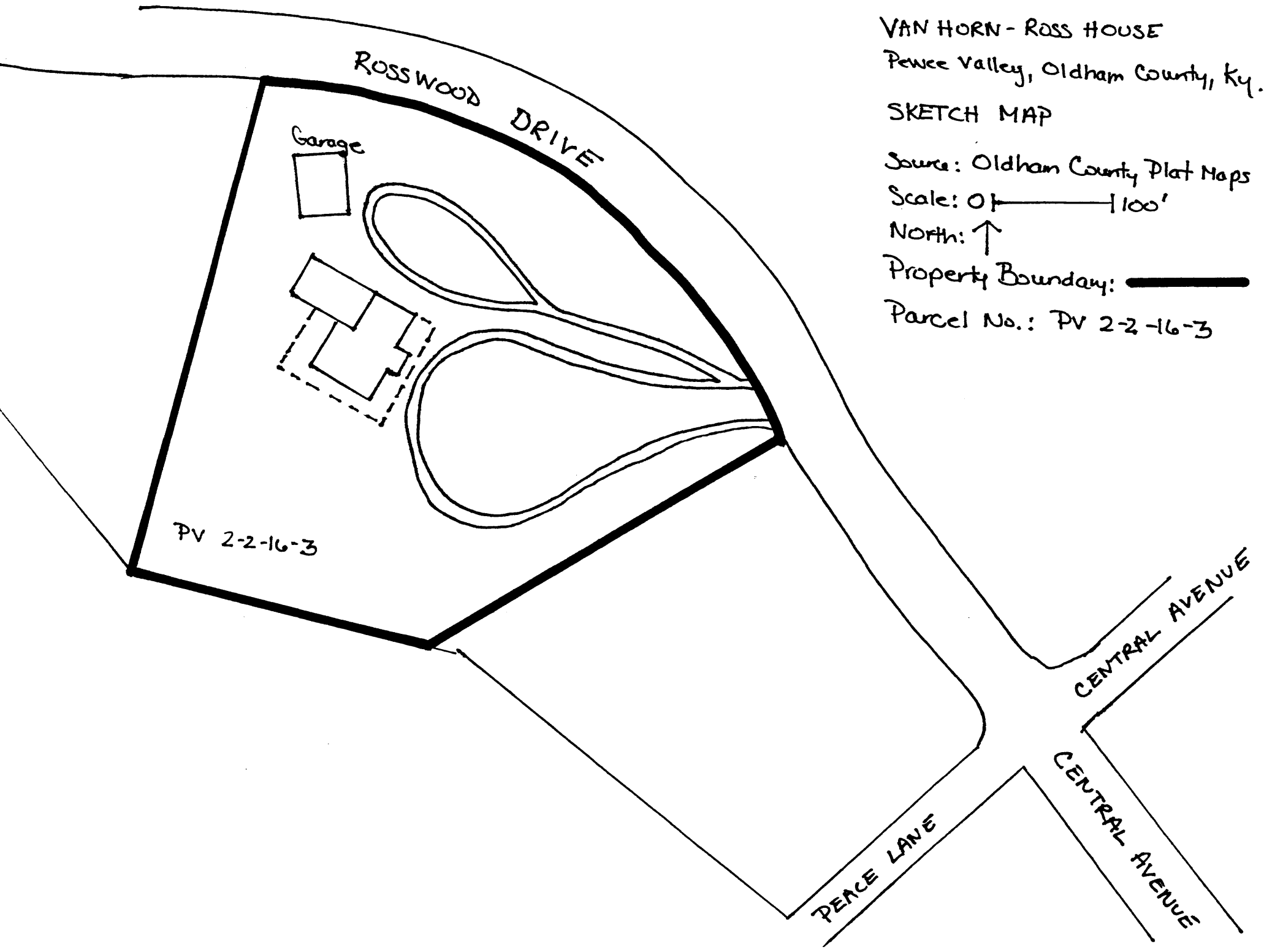
Source: Oldham County Plat Maps

Scale: 0 ——— 100'

North: ↑

Property Boundary: **—————**

Parcel No.: PV 2-2-16-3



OCT 25 1989

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PHOTOGRAPHS

1. Van Horn - Ross House
2. Pewee Valley, Oldham County, Kentucky
3. Photographer: Carolyn Brooks
4. Date: April, 1989
5. Negatives on file with the Kentucky Heritage Council, Frankfort, Ky.

(The above information is the same for all 3 photographs submitted with the nomination. Below, the photographs are listed in order of their photograph numbers, and each view is described.)

1. Front facade and south side; photographer facing northwest.
2. Front facade and north side; photographer facing southwest.
3. Rear facade of house (left) and non-contributing garage (right); photographer facing southeast.