

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED NOV 3 1980 DEC 5 1980  
DATE ENTERED

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Cave Place

AND/OR COMMON

Cave Hill Place

**2 LOCATION**

W of Lexington

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Lexington

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6

STATE

Kentucky

CODE

021

COUNTY

Fayette

CODE

067

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

PUBLIC

PRIVATE

BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

**ACCESSIBLE**

YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

**PRESENT USE**

AGRICULTURE

COMMERCIAL

EDUCATIONAL

ENTERTAINMENT

GOVERNMENT

INDUSTRIAL

MILITARY

MUSEUM

PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

RELIGIOUS

SCIENTIFIC

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Honorable and Mrs. John Y. Brown, Jr.

STREET & NUMBER

Cave Hill Lane

CITY, TOWN

Lexington

VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Fayette County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Lexington

STATE

Kentucky

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky

DATE

1970

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Kentucky Heritage Commission

CITY, TOWN

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Cave Place lies approximately five miles from downtown Lexington in the southwest corner of Fayette County within a few miles of the Fayette-Jessamine county line. Located just beyond the four-lane beltline which encircles Lexington, the house retains a semi-rural atmosphere situated on a seventeen-acre farm at the end of a narrow lane 1½ miles west of the Harrodsburg Road (U.S. 68).

Facing southwestward towards a tributary of Cave Creek, Cave Place is a 2½-story, five-bay Federal dwelling. Constructed in 1821, the original brick structure consists of a center-passage, single-pile block with recessed two-story wings and a one-story service ell to the rear (see photos 1 and 2). The facade is laid in Flemish bond, jack arches surmount the windows, and the door is flanked by leaded glass sidelights and surmounted by an elliptical fanlight (see photo 3).

The Lexington architectural firm of N. Warfield Gratz is credited with designing the 1916 additions in the neo-Federal and Georgian Revival manner. The additions were tastefully executed, transforming the overall appearance of the house without obliterating the original structure. Most noticeable of the additions is the colossal Tuscan portico; a dentilled cornice was added to the main block at the same time. Semi-octagonal extensions to the east and west wings appear to have almost doubled the length of those units. Balustrades were placed at the second story level of the wings, and rounded dormers were added to the main block (see photo 4). A large rectangular library was appended to the rear of the center section, and elongated elliptically arched windows pierce the rear (north) wall of this room (see photo 5).

On the interior of the 1821 section, much of the original woodwork remains intact, including Federal mantels, reeded door jambs, fluted door and window trim with concentric circle blocks, and substantial portions of chairrail (see photos 6, 7, and 8). Panelled wainscoting was added when the west wing (dining room) was enlarged; the original mantels in both wings appear to have been retained during the enlargement of those rooms. Square corner blocks were employed for door and window trim in these additions. Arched walnut doors lead from the wings and the center hall into the large library added to the rear of the main block. A massive sixteenth-century oak mantel brought from Seven Oaks, England was installed in the northwest corner of the library (see photo 9). On the second floor, doors and windows have simpler architrave treatments and mantels are more modest than those on the main floor.

The service wing now contains the kitchen, family room, and laundry room. A long one-story brick slave quarter is located just west of the house. This has served most recently as a combination of garage and office space.

East of the house are the remnants of a formal garden laid out in the 1920s which the present owners hope to restore. A small frame and glass garden house remains at the edge of the garden (see photo 10).

The nomination of approximately 2.8 acres consists of the main house, slave quarter, and garden area which form the domestic core of the seventeen-acre parcel of farm land.

# 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 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 checked="" 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      1821; 1916                                      BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Constructed in 1821 and subsequently enlarged in 1916, Cave Place clearly illustrates one pattern of stylistic evolution of a standard early nineteenth century Kentucky house form. As the result of refined additions in the neo-Federal and Georgian Revival modes, the original Federal mass remained as the physical core while serving as the inspiration for the present neo-classically styled residence. This transformation is a significant reflection of the strong association with classicism prevalent in the early twentieth century. Furthermore, Cave Place is associated with some of Fayette County and central Kentucky's most prominent early settlers, the Bryan family of Bryan's Station and Colonel Abraham Bowman.

The house was constructed by David Bryan on 385 acres of Colonel Abraham Bowman's original 8000-acre land grant on the South Elkhorn Creek. Colonel Bowman had served as commander of the 8th Virginia Regiment during the Revolutionary War and upon settling in Kentucky had represented Fayette County under the first state constitution. In 1781, Bowman married Sarah Henry Bryan, the widow of his friend Colonel David Bryan, and settled on the 8000-acre tract southwest of Lexington<sup>1</sup>.

In his 1825 will, Colonel Bowman appointed his stepson David Bryan as one of the executors of his estate and bequeathed to him a slave "in addition to what I have already given him." Presumably, Bowman had given young David Bryan a portion of the 8000-acre tract sometime prior to his death, perhaps at the time Bryan married Margaret Parker of Stony Point in 1805<sup>2</sup>.

Bryan, a cousin of the Bryan brothers who established Bryan's Station northeast of Lexington in 1779, constructed Cave Place in 1821, naming it for the large cave on the property which was used to store food during the summer months. At his death in 1834, his only son William Bryan, later a general in the Confederate army, inherited Cave Place. General Bryan was an avid fox hunter and hosted lavish parties and hunts at the farm. Upon his death in 1879, Cave Place was sold to Judge John Phelps of Boone County, Kentucky. In 1916, during the Phelps' ownership, the neo-Federal and Georgian Revival additions were made to the house.

<sup>1</sup>See National Register forms for Helm Place, listed 3 August 1978 and the Bowman Houses, listed 9 August 1979.

<sup>2</sup>See National Register forms for William Lytle Todd House, listed 7 July 1979 and Stony Point, listed 7 August 1979.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cooper, J.R. "Bryan Families of Fayette and Adjoining Counties", manuscript, from articles published in serial form, Lexington Herald, 1927.

Lancaster, Clay. Ante-Bellum Houses of the Bluegrass. Lexington, Kentucky, 1961.

Newcomb, Rexford. Architecture in Old Kentucky. Urbana, Illinois, 1953. (see continuation sheet)

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

**ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**  
**UTM NOT VERIFIED**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately 2.8 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Lexington West Quadrangle

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,6 711,210,510 4,211,014,2,0

B         

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C         

D         

E         

F         

G         

H         

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See continuation sheet.

## 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

Charlotte Schneider, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Kentucky Heritage Commission

DATE

August, 1980

STREET & NUMBER

104 Bridge Street

TELEPHONE

(502) 564-3741

CITY OR TOWN

Frankfort

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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Donna C. Hopkins*

TITLE

Acting SHPO

DATE

10-22-80

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*for W. Ray Jurel*

DATE

12/5/80

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

*Paula Kent McClelland*

DATE

12-7-80

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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Fayette County, Kentucky  
**CONTINUATION SHEET**

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

In 1925, Dutch businessman Christian DeWaal purchased Cave Place, renaming the property Clingendaal after the oldest race course in Holland. Although Mr. DeWaal died before realizing his dream of establishing a thoroughbred horse farm at Cave Place, the DeWaal's did plan and execute a formal garden inspired both by the work of Dutch landscape artists and their interest in the gardens of China.

Ownership has changed several times since the 1930s, and the farm has dwindled from 385 to seventeen acres. Nevertheless, Cave Place has retained many of its rural qualities, as have the other nearby related Bowman houses located a few miles to the south off Harrodsburg Road.

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Fayette County, Kentucky

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

Newcomb, Rexford. Old Kentucky Architecture. (Colonial, Federal, Greek Revival, Gothic, and Other types Erected Prior to the War Between the States). New York: William Helburn Inc., 1940.

Robinson, Elizabeth M. "The Influence of the Bryan Men on Central Kentucky as Seen Through Their Homes and Dependencies, 1776-1876." Senior Project, May, 1977.

Simpson, Elizabeth. Blue Grass Houses and their Traditions. Lexington, Kentucky, 1932.

Thomas, E.P. Old Kentucky Homes and Gardens. Louisville, 1939.

Wayland, John W. The Bowmans. Staunton, Va.: McClure Co., 1943.

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**CONTINUATION SHEET**

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

An area roughly square in shape, beginning at the southwest corner of the property, thence northeast along west property line 487.5', southeast along fence line 500', southwest along line paralleling east foundation of garden house 537.5' to south property line, west along said line 462.5' to point of origin.

Cave Place  
Fayette County, Kentucky  
Floor plan  
Not to scale.  
MAP # 1

ADDITION





