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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



NATIONAL
REGISTER

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 Harrods Creek Historic District
other names/site number JF556, JF557, JF558, JF570, JF771

2. Location

street & number Wolf Pen Branch and Upper River Roads na not for publication
city, town Harrods Creek, na vicinity
state Kentucky code KY county Jefferson code 111 zip code 40027

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>14</u>	<u>5</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>10</u>	<u>1</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>12</u>	<u>2</u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>36</u>	<u>8</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: Louisville and Jefferson County, Kentucky
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 3

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 10-8-91
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.
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

Patrick Andrews Signature of the Keeper 11/22/91 Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic-Single dwellings; Secondary structures; Landscape-gardens/natural features/forests/unoccupied land

Transportation-road related (vehicular)

Agricultural-storage/field/horticultural facility/outbuilding

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

All historic functions continue as current functions

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th & 20th Century Revivals

Tudor Revival; Classical Revival

Early Republic-Federal

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete, Stone

walls Brick, Stucco, Frame

roof Slate, Metal, Asphalt

other _____

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)

Landscape Architecture
Architecture

Period of Significance

1878-1935

Significant Dates

1878
1890
1911
1935

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Significant Person

Architect/Builder

Arthur Cowell
Nevin & Morgan

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- 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:

Jefferson County Historic Preservation and Archives

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 319.3818

UTM References

A

16	6	18	3	20	42	41	6	9	0
Zone	Easting			Northing					

B

16	6	19	1	40	42	42	9	00
Zone	Easting			Northing				

C

16	6	19	9	00	42	42	5	70
Zone	Easting			Northing				

D

16	6	19	7	00	42	42	4	70
Zone	Easting			Northing				

E 16 619780 4242200

F 16 619420 4241760

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The district includes all of District 21, Block W-y, Lots 15, 22, 26, 27, 28, 56, 60, 61, 62, 77, 78, 112 113, 155, 161, 162 in the unincorporated area of Jefferson County. Parcels range in size from 1.3 acres (Cochran House, JF558) to 161 Acres (Theodore Mueller House/Shady Brook Farm, JF556).

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Donna Neary, Daniel Carey & Leslie Keys
organization Jeff. Co. Hist. Pres. & Archives date August 29, 1991
street & number 810 Barret Avenue telephone (502)625-5761
city or town Louisville state KY zip code 40204

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Harrods Creek Historic District
Jefferson County, Kentucky

Section number 7 Page 2

The Harrods Creek Historic District (hereinafter referred to as the District) consists of approximately 319 acres of farmed Ohio River floodplain rising to steeply sloping wooded hills. The District is located in eastern Jefferson County, Kentucky, near the watersheds of Harrods and Goose Creeks. It is adjacent to the Nitta Yuma Historic District on the east, a mid-20th century cluster of small, nondescript residentials and commercial buildings fronting on River Road on the north and west, and Goose Creek on the south. The District is composed of five properties: Ashbourne (JF570), Cochran House (JF558), The Avish (JF771), Theodore Mueller House/Shady Brook Farm (JF556), and the Bingham-Hilliard Estate (JF557).

The District contains 47 elements ranging in construction dates from ca. 1800-30 to 1991. Of these, 36 elements are considered to contribute to the District, eight are considered to be noncontributing, and three represent previously listed buildings. The District consists of four groups of resources: a designed historic landscape, formal gardens, managed agricultural land, and a collection of residential buildings and outbuildings (see map).

Prior to discussion of the individual resources is a District Overview which outlines the District's physical characteristics before, during and after the period of significance.

District Overview

The Harrods Creek Historic District developed on land which supported prosperous farms throughout the first half of the 19th century. Substantial acreage was held as secondary farms by Philatus Barbour (Rosewell, JF452) and James Allison (Allison-Barrickman House, JF563), whose principal residences were nearby. Also, Joseph Barbaroux's farm (Ashbourne, JF570) stretched to the banks of Harrods Creek and included mills and distilleries.

Upper River and Wolf Pen Branch Roads were already established transportation routes from the port at Harrods Creek

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into downtown Louisville. Agricultural uses were arranged in a stringent linear plan with fence lines running perpendicular to Upper River Road. Steep hillsides and creekbanks were left wooded, but the hilltops were cleared for agricultural use. The lowland fields along Upper River Road that comprise a sizable acreage of the District were once farmed extensively. The fields that are part of Shady Brook Farm (JF556) are now planted in Kentucky Bluegrass and mowed regularly, and sod is harvested from the fields. The Ashbourne fields continue to be farmed on a limited basis. These fields assume a less manicured appearance than those on Shady Brook Farm.

At the conclusion of the Civil War, with the primary labor source of slaves no longer available, the farms began to be divided into smaller units, and the commercial enterprises declined. No physical evidence remains from this early land use with the exception of the buildings at Ashbourne and the function of the bottomlands along Upper River Road which continue to be used for agricultural purposes.

By 1878 Gavin Cochran owned the farms on which the district developed--with the exception of Ashbourne. At this time he constructed a summer retreat for his family. This signals the beginning of the period of significance for the District.

The extension of the interurban lines to Harrods Creek in 1904 facilitated the permanent occupation of the District as suburban residences. The construction of The Avish in 1911, the Theodore Mueller/Shady Brook Farm by 1926 and the Bingham-Hilliard Estate in 1927 cemented the District as a permanent suburban development.

All of the elements in the District were carefully designed and integrally related. The primary dwellings were architect designed and built of quality materials. Secondary buildings complement the main houses. The grounds of the individual properties were professionally landscaped, and formal gardens were included with some.

Landscape elements near the houses and gardens tend to create buffers from service buildings and approaches to the main

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dwelling. These natural barriers also extend between property lines in the form of shrubs and thick tree growth. As the property lines approach the interior roadway and common areas the landscape opens up to vast rolling pasture. In this way, all of the country estates retain their separateness and individuality while being part of the whole community.

Four residences have been constructed in the period from 1935 to the present. All four were built for members of the Brown Family. They have been placed in a manner which, due to the geography and landscaping, does not detract from the original design landscape of the District. One property is accessed from Wolf Pen Branch Road. An access road to the other three noncontributing properties departs Avish Lane and curves upward, past the Williams house, toward the Robinson Brown and Mary Ellen Stottman houses. These houses are shielded from view by mature tree growth. Avish Lane falls south (below the access road) toward the Cochran House and is shielded from view of the access road by mature trees and vegetation. The open pasture of Ashbourne is maintained along Avish Lane. The historic, contributing elements in the District have been maintained.

Resource Inventory

The following inventory enumerates the resources under the heading of the property on which they are specifically located or in general terms if they enhance the significance of the entire complex:

C Designed Historic Landscape

1. Landscape design principles popularized and refined by Frederick Law Olmsted and his firm from Brookline, Massachusetts, are evident throughout the District. The Olmsted firm is credited with orchestrating neighboring country estates, and its work has been emulated by other designers as well throughout this century.

Existing natural elements, such as floodplains and hills, are enhanced by curvilinear roadways and drives which wind through pastoral settings to reveal carefully placed high style

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residences and service buildings. A dense second-growth woods planted in the midst of what had been farm fields along the eastern property lines forms a definitive boundary between the District and neighboring Nitta Yuma. Similarly, privacy is guarded by a substantial border of mature vegetation where the lowlands rise to the hills. All of the properties with the exception of Ashbourne (which had initially been developed as a lowland farm) are perched on the high ridge overlooking the lowlands. The residences share spectacular riverfront vistas.

Avish Lane, the internal roadway for the District, has experienced several changes over time. The original approach into the District is from River Road on the north. When constructed in 1878 to provide access for Walnut Hill, precursor of the Cochran House (JF558), the roadway was named "Walnut Hill Road". The slightly curved, treed road was laid out as a farm access lane. Using the principle that the shortest distance between two points is a straight line, the road follows the topography of the land into the District, while maintaining a direct approach. The road, renamed Avish Lane shortly after the construction of The Avish in 1911, was extended later to provide access to the Bingham-Hilliard Estate.

This tradition changed abruptly when a dramatic entrance was built on the western boundary of the District for the Theodore Mueller House/Shady Brook Farm (JF556) during its construction in 1924-26. A curvilinear roadway was designed to display the house at its best advantage. Several different views of the main residence and the surrounding landscape are afforded when traveling east into the property. Upon emerging from a canopy of mature trees, the road crosses the creek and curves past an open pasture bordered by mature tree growth. The roadway had to be blasted out of the hillside to achieve the desired design. The resulting rock was used for constructing decorative dry-laid stone walls, placed climbing the hillside to the main dwelling. Sharp turns are incorporated into the road, and an observation area overlooking Little Goose Creek is placed directly below the house. Low ground cover is used to decorate the approach, so as not to interfere with the view. Once the road conquers the hillside, the view of the house is lost. The road then forks on the treed hilltop; one fork leading upward toward the Mueller house, and the other curving past that entrance to link with Avish Lane.

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The carefully landscaped roadway provides surprising, partially revealed views of the residences in the District. Uniformly mowed pastures create a transition between the farmlands and the domestic complexes. This effort to shield the primary dwellings and residential complexes from the pastures and farmed fields alludes to the lessening importance of the land as a provider after 1911, and the desire by the inhabitants to cocoon themselves from the outside world with natural barriers.

The Ohio River bottomlands have retained much of their agricultural character, with tree-lined fence rows remaining in a linear fashion and perpendicular to Upper River Road. Four-board fencing divides pastures from planted fields. Internal farm roads are unpaved and originate at various points on Avish Lane.

Rich soils in a combination of Crider-Corydon and Wheeling-Weinbach-Huntington associations support a variety of plants, flowers and trees which adorn the landscape. Tree species include hickory (*Carya*), elm (*Ulmaceae*), maple (*Acer*), oak (*Quercus*), dogwood (*Cornus florida*), redbud (*Cercis canadensis*), sycamore (*Platanaceae*), and holly (*Ilex*). Landscaping around several of the dwellings consists in many cases of boxwoods and other shrubs of various textures and sizes that enhance each building's rhythm of exterior features, massing and details.

Both Goose and Little Goose Creeks, the latter of which meanders through the heart of the District, play a dominant role in sustaining the agricultural vitality of the lowlands as well as a decorative role and water source for the formal landscaping. The banks of the creek are heavily treed, creating a defined natural boundary. The tree-laden banks spill out onto open pastures, and tree growth is controlled around the perimeter. Traveling north on Avish Lane from the Bingham-Hilliard Estate (JF557) down the hill toward the Cochran House (JF558) affords a view of the creek, below the road on its way to the Ohio River. The creek leaps its banks on occasions when the River level rises and floods the lowlands and roadways.

Within the designed historic landscape rest five independently-developed, yet integrally-linked historic properties. The linkages are geographical, economical, and familial/societal. Following is a description of the elements which constitute each property.

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Ashbourne, JF570

The main building complex for Ashbourne is reached from Upper River Road, near the intersection of Upper River and Wolf Pen Branch Roads. The long driveway curves into the complex and passes a cottage, in a grove of trees to the right. The cottage is located to the left of the driveway on a slight curve. The approach straightens as it heads for the main dwelling. The road then curves around two mature holly trees into a circular drive in front of the main house. The road continues past the left side of the house and provides access to the Carriage house/garage, the slave quarters and wellhouse. The formal garden is located to the rear of the main dwelling, accessible by foot. The barn is visible from the domestic complex, but is separated by a wood four-board fence and an expanse of pasture. The Avish is also visible from Ashbourne on the ridge above, partially shielded by mature trees on both properties.

Buildings:

- C 2. Main House (ca. 1800-30) This two-story, five bay, brick residence is topped by a low gable roof, with a center front cross gable and brick cornice. The four-over-four double-hung-sash windows are fitted with segmental arches on the first-story, and jack arches on the second-story. A one-story portico with balustrade accents the main facade. The central entrance is complemented by sidelights. This residence was added to the National Register July 12, 1983.
- C 3. Carriage House/Slave quarters (ca. 1800-30) A one-story, brick, side-gabled building fitted with a tin roof. The end chimney is accented by a corbelled cap.
- C 4. Garage (ca. 1947) The one and one-half story outbuilding is fitted with a side-gabled, tin roof. The main facade has been modified, and is now composed of three evenly spaced overhead garage doors.
- C 5. Cottage (ca. 1905-20) This one and one-half story Arts and Crafts bungalow is located near the main entrance to the property. The stuccoed, asymmetrical-plan house is fitted with a tin-covered hipped roof. Irregularly placed paired chimneys pierce the roof.

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- C 6. Gate House (ca. 1965) This one-story, side-gabled, frame cottage is clad with wood siding. A central door is flanked by four double-hung-sash windows. An end chimney pierces the roof.
- C 7. Barn (ca. 1910-20) - A two-story, side-gabled, frame storage barn with board and batten siding.

Structures

- C 8. Springhouse (ca. 1800-30) A one-story, stone construction with a front-gabled, wood shingled roof.

Sites

- C 9. Formal garden (ca. 1920-30) Two free-standing, wooden Corinthian-order columns accent the formal garden to the rear of the main house.
- C 10. Pond/Pool (ca. 1800-30) Small, spring-fed water source used for agricultural and recreational purposes.
- C 11. Pasture (ca. 1800-30) Open fields with four-board fencing. Heavily treed fencerows border the property lines between these fields and those of Shady Brook Farm (JF556).

Cochran House, JF558

The Cochran House may be approached from either entrance into the District on Avish Lane. The property is located nearly dead-center in the complex of country estates. The main house is located only ten or so feet from Avish Lane, and a driveway allows access onto the property at the rear facade. A stone quarry is located approximately 50 yards from the rear of the house on Avish Lane. Mature deciduous trees shade the quarry and shield the residence from view from the access driveway to The Avish property.

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Buildings:

- C 12. Main house (ca. 1870s) Two-story, frame, side-gabled roof is pierced by two interior end chimneys. The five bay main block is sheltered by a full-height, columned portico, that was added to the house for W.L. Lyons Brown, Jr. ca. 1938-1940. One-story wings flank the main block. The central door is flanked by one-over-one double-hung sash windows. The second story is composed of one-over-one double-hung sash window.

Site

- C 13. Quarry (ca. 1878) Small crescent-shaped feature located to the rear of the house adjacent to the curving roadway and used to harvest stone for the foundation.

The Avish, JF771

Avish Lane splits as it heads south into the District from River Road. The driveway to The Avish forks to the left of the road, and Ashbourne is visible to the north. A hilly, treed meadow climbs upward toward the domestic complex. The road curves to reveal the main dwelling, set above it. The formal garden is placed at the rear of the main house, and is partially visible from below. The road then veers off to the right into the complex of support buildings and gardens. Mature deciduous trees conceal the support buildings from the rear facade. The Servants house/garage and a storage building are located to the right of the road. A vegetable garden, garden shed and two greenhouses are located to the left of the road. The road leads directly into the barn. Open meadow, bordered by thick, mature tree growth surrounds the complex.

Buildings:

- C 14. Main house (1911, ca. 1938) The residence is a two-story, poured concrete construction clad with stucco.

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The four-bay main block, off-center plan is flanked by one-bay wings. The side gable roof is pierced by an interior chimney. The main block is accented by a full-height entry portico, topped with a Chippendale balustrade. The one-story wing is topped likewise with a balustrade. These details were designed by architect William Ziegler of Philadelphia in conjunction with a 1930s interior renovation, perhaps following the 1937 Flood.

- C 15. Servants house/garage (1911) One and one-half story, poured concrete building clad with stucco. The hipped roof is fitted with wide overhanging eaves. The three-bay main facade is composed of evenly spaced overhead garage doors on the first story. The upper story is accented by six-over-one double-hung sash windows.
- C 16. Barn (ca. 1930-32) Two and one-half story, frame building clad in weatherboard siding. The gambrel roof is accented by a hood over the upper hay door. The asphalt shingle roof is pierced by four, evenly spaced shed-roofed vent dormers with louvers.
- NC 17. Dan and Laura Brown Frazier Huneke Residence (ca. 1988-90) A two-story, brick, Neo-Colonial styled house.
- NC 18. Mary Ellen Brown Stottman Residence (ca. 1970-80) A one and one-half story, brick, large, ranch-style house.
- NC 19. Robinson Brown Residence (1959) This two-story, frame, side-gabled residence is accented by a full-height portico over the main entrance.
- NC 20. Keith and Mary Brown Williams Residence (ca. 1988-90) A one story, brick, modern house.

Structures

- NC 21. Storage building (1991) One-story frame building clad with stucco. The hipped roof is accented with wide

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overhanging eaves. A central vent pierces the roof. The square plan building is complemented by eight-over-one double-hung sash windows.

- C 22. Greenhouse (ca. 1911) Front gable, rectangular-plan, glass and steel construction. This building serves to provide replacement plants in the formal garden and for the designed landscape, and important principle of landscape design.
- C 23. Greenhouse (ca. 1911) Small, rectangular-plan, glass and steel construction with gambrel roof. This building serves to provide replacement plants in the formal garden and for the designed landscape, and important principle of landscape design.
- C 24. Garden Shed (ca. 1911) One-story, end gable, 3 bay, frame building used to house tools for the greenhouses and gardens.

Sites

- C 25. Formal garden (ca. 1911) The garden, located to the rear of the main dwelling, is planted with a variety of perennial and biennial plants and is maintained.
- C 26. Vegetable garden (ca. 1911) Approximately one-half acre in size and planted with corn, tomatoes, beans and other vegetables and herbs and flowers.

Theodore Mueller House/Shady Brook Farm, JF556

The approach to the Theodore Mueller House/Shady Brook Farm is made from the west off River Road through paired, stone convex gates. The road passes beneath a canopy of mature evergreen and deciduous trees, past mowed pastures. A round stone outbuilding stands in the field to the left of the road. The road crosses Little Goose Creek over a small bridge and emerges into an open pasture. It then climbs the bluff with sharp, contrived turns.

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Dry-laid stone walls decorate the approach. One turn reveals a look-out over Little Goose Creek, and the main house above. The road continues its upward curve until reaching the top of the bluff. A newly renovated residence is located to the left of the road. The road then forks at the entrance to Shady Brook Farm. The left fork curves upward toward the domestic complex, past the formal garden on the right into a circular drive in front of the main dwelling. The greenhouse is located to the left of the main house.

The right fork of the road continues on into the District past two small, frame caretakers houses to the right of the road. The road curves past these buildings and encounters a vegetable garden, two silos, and the Shady Brook Farm horse barn on the left side of the road.

Buildings:

- C 27. Main house (1924-26) Two-story brick residence with asymmetrical massing, steep gables, and a slate roof. This building bears great resemblance to Revival designs executed by the local firm of Nevin and Morgan. Windows are of various sizes, and there are paired, multi-paned and diamond-paned casement windows. Brick chimneys are large with corbelled tops. The house combines both Tudor Revival and Arts and Crafts details. The site is on a bluff and there is a rear terrace overlooking a steep cliff. This building was listed on the National Register August 16, 1983.

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- C 28. Caretaker's house (ca. 1924-26) One-story, frame, hipped-roof house is clad with weatherboard, and sits on a concrete block foundation.
- C 29. Caretaker's House (ca. 1924-26) One-story, frame, side-gabled house, clad with weatherboard and sits on a brick foundation. The roof is pierced by an interior chimney.
- NC 30. Modern residence (1991) Two-story, frame construction, clad with stucco.
- C 31. Horse barn (ca. 1924-26) Large, one-story frame barn clad with weatherboard siding. The side-gabled roof features exposed rafter ends. The asphalt shingled roof is pierced by four evenly-spaced louvered vents, and two interior-end chimneys. The fourteen bay main facade is composed of paired double-hung sash windows, and sliding doors.

Structures

- C 32. Greenhouse (ca. 1924-26) One-story, glass and steel, rectangular plan construction with front-gable.
- C 33. Round stone outbuilding (ca. 1924-26) One-story, round, stone building with wood shake conical roof.
- C 34. Stone gates (ca. 1924-26) Convex walls constructed of stone and flanked by round stone piers.
- C 35. Outcrop stone fence (ca. 1924-26) Dry-laid stone fence.
- C 36. Small bridge (ca. 1924-26) Stone bridge with iron balustrade.
- C 37. Corn crib (ca. 1924-26) This one-story round crib with metal vertical siding and conical roof sits on a concrete foundation.

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- C 38. Corn crib (ca. 1924-26) This one-story round crib with metal vertical siding and conical roof sits on a concrete foundation.

Sites

- C 39. Formal garden (c. 1924-26) The garden is maintained. It is planted with roses, and perennial and biennial plants. It is highlighted by a stone basin for a pool and stone wall border.
- C 40. Pasture (ca. 1924-26) open fields with original wood four-board fencing.
- C 41. Vegetable garden (ca. 1924-26) approximately two-hundred square feet in size, and planted with tomatoes, corn, beans and other vegetable.

JF557 Bingham-Hilliard Estate

Avish Lane forks to the left, north of the Theodore Mueller House/Shady Brook Farm to allow access to the Bingham-Hilliard Estate. The driveway curves upward toward the domestic complex. The drive forks a second time, just below the house. The lower, left fork leads to the garage entrance and the right fork proceeds towards the main house. The Chauffeur's residence/garage is to the left of the main house. The greenhouse is located past the Chauffeur's residence/garage, to the side and rear of the main dwelling.

Located directly below and beyond the main entrance of the house are stone stairs which lead to the formal garden. A round reflecting pool and fountain rest at the head of the symmetrical, linear, terraced garden. A pergola, placed perpendicular to the garden, defines its eastern boundary.

The right fork, once back on Avish Lane, passes the barn and corn crib on the right side of the road, and continues toward the Cochran House.

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Buildings:

- C 42. Main house (1927) Two-story brick structure with irregular massing, tall gables and steep slate roof. Tudor Revival details include stone trim, grouped chimney stacks. Designed by locally-renowned firm of Nevin and Morgan. The house was added to the National Register December 5, 1980.
- C 43. Chauffeur's residence/garage (1927) One and one-half story brick construction. The residence is fitted with a side-gabled roof with a shed extension. The three-bay garage is built into the hill and is fitted with a flat roof.
- C 44. Barn (1927) One story frame gambrel-roofed barn with board and batten siding.

Structure

- NC 45. Greenhouse (ca. 1974) Glass and steel construction with front gable. This building serves to provide replacement plants in the formal garden and for the designed landscape, and important principle of landscape design.
- C 46. Corn crib (1927) one-story round crib with metal vertical siding and conical roof sits on a concrete foundation.

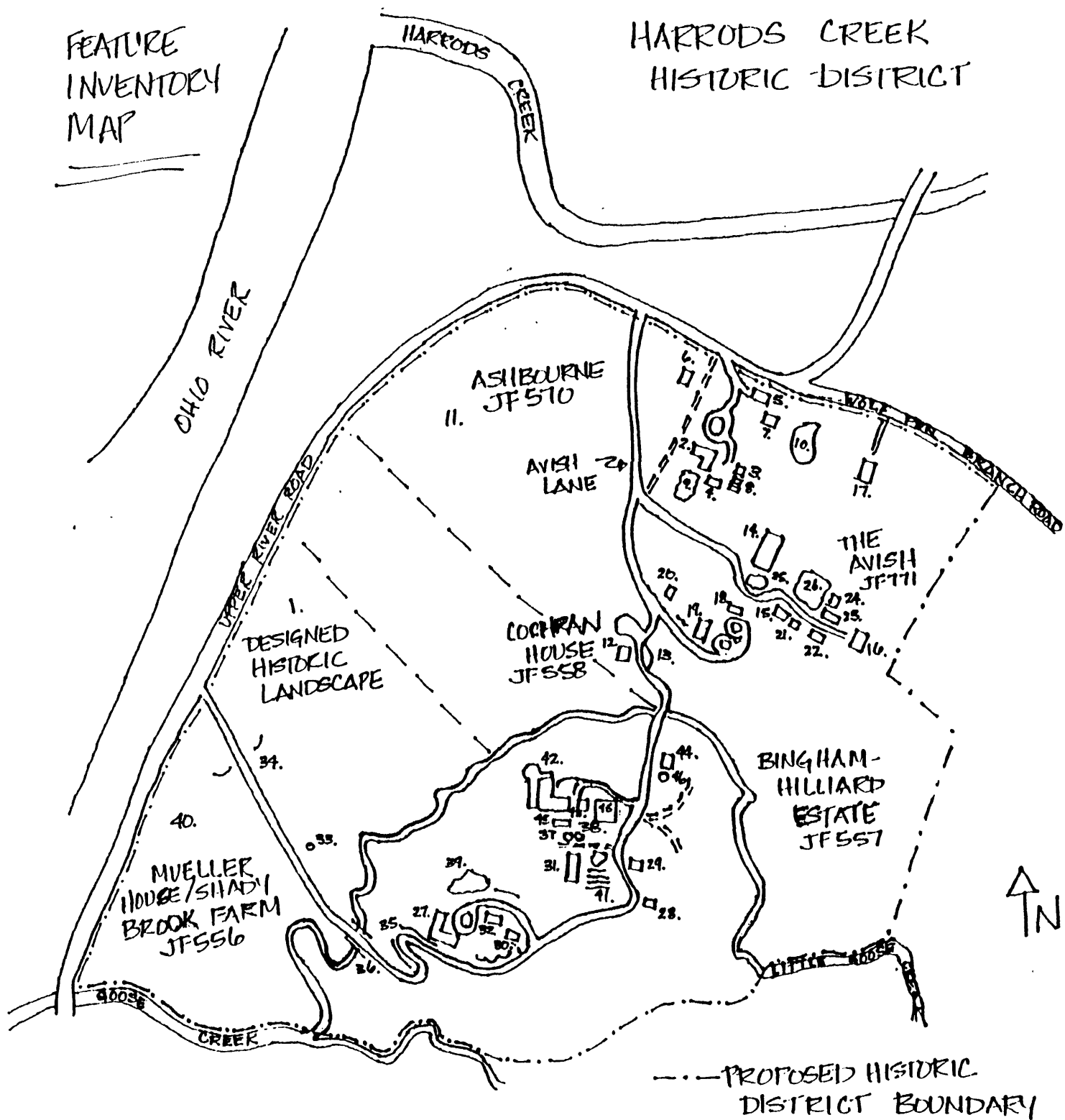
Site

- NC 47. Formal garden (1974) This feature is an exact execution of the garden plan designed by Arthur Cowell for Robert Bingham in 1928. Neither the Bingham nor the Hilliards had carried out the garden plan. It was first laid out by Mrs. Doll and is highly maintained. The garden is a symmetrical, linear, terraced extension of the main dwelling.

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The Harrods Creek Historic District (hereinafter referred to as the "District") is significant at the local level under Criterion C as a contiguous collection of country estates set in an historically, socioeconomically, and topographically distinguishable region of eastern Jefferson County, Kentucky. It is part of the Country Estate Property Type in the context, Suburban Development in Louisville and Jefferson County, 1869-1940 (National Register 1988). The District befits inclusion in this larger framework as a representative example of the emergent and dynamic suburban perimeter of Jefferson County amid the economic and technological progression of the early 20th century.

Traditionally, many country estates were located in eastern Jefferson county on the fertile soils found there. These estates integrate designed landscapes with architect designed residences in settings chosen for their natural features, such as the high bluffs at Harrods Creek. Drumanard (JF565) is an excellent example of the country estate property type, maintaining a high level of integrity. The Frederick Law Olmsted landscape works in harmony with the domestic complex designed by locally-prominent architects Nevin and Morgan. Drumanard is very similar to the country estates in the District in layout and design.

The land for these estates was sometimes purchased for this express purpose as in the case of the Theodore Mueller House/Shady Brook Farm (JF556) or was carved from a larger tract, as in the case of The Avish (JF771) in the District. However obtained, the goal of the design was to create a pastoral environment by imposing order on the landscape, while respecting the natural features of the land. Elements such as streams and creeks gained importance in the overall design concept. Architects and landscape architects strove for a harmony in the built environment.

Inhabitants of the District required dual roles for their landscapes. The designed landscapes offered seclusion from the outside world, while allowing for scenic vistas within the estate. The country estates developed in the twentieth century, as were The Avish (JF771), Theodore Mueller House/Shady Brook Farm (JF556) and the Bingham-Hilliard House, showed the later propensity to design heavy screening and natural bordering of

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properties to completely block them from outside view, and to prevent views from the public roadway. These properties were also designed to accommodate the growing use of automobiles in the way of enlarged approaches and turn-arounds. However, roads and traffic were intentionally relegated away from the created scenery of estates, and placed below and to the sides and rears of the domestic complexes in the District.

Country estates are expected to remain in their original conditions and for many of the support buildings to be intact. Few alterations are expected, and those buildings that have experienced modification, such as the Cochran House (JF558), are expected to have high quality additions. Also paramount is the existence of the original site plan and landscape design, allowing for mature plants and trees. Some formal gardens may exist with deferred maintenance, such as Ashbourne (JF570).

Several concepts of design were used by landscape architects in the District to create country estates. In order to succeed in their goal of creating unified pastoral settings, no single element could dominate the site; all were designed to work as units. With this in mind, landscape and building features were carefully paired, and incompatible styles were avoided.

The District remains as one of the few collections of Country Estates with a high level of integrity. In many instances of large estates, subsequent property owners changed original landscape plans. The tradition in the District has been for subsequent owners to maintain and in some cases enhance the original plan. In the case of the Bingham-Hilliard Estate (JF557) owner Mary Stanton Doll carried out the original formal garden plan devised by Cowell in 1928 but never fully planted. The W.L. Lyons Browns added a formal garden and a designed landscape to Ashbourne (JF570).

The period of significance for the District begins with the construction of the Cochran House (JF558) ca. 1878. Gavin H. Cochran, a wholesale liquor merchant and the incorporator of the Central Passenger Street Railway, bought several hundred acres of land in the area in the late 1870s. The extant building appears to be part of the original house shown on the 1879 Atlas.

The Cochrans may never have considered the house their primary residence, but used it only as a summer retreat. According to City Directories, the Cochrans also maintained a residence at Fourth and York Streets in Louisville. The Cochrans

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were part of an early wave of suburbanization in Jefferson County, holding rural land and a weekend cottage, yet maintaining primary residency in the city. The house now belongs to Eunice Wymond.

The establishment in 1890 of nearby Nitta Yuma by George Garvin Brown as a summer retreat gave further impetus to development of the District. Nitta Yuma's creation, coupled with the extension of the interurban to eastern Jefferson County in 1904, led to the use of houses in the District as permanent residences and the construction of new permanent residences.

The creation in 1911 of The Avish by Owsley and Laura Lyons Brown as their primary residence was a pivotal event. It represented dependence upon the newly-completed interurban and a strengthening of the Brown Family's ties to eastern Jefferson County.

Owsley Brown was the son of George Garvin Brown, the founder of Brown-Forman Distillery, as well as the innovator of Nitta Yuma. A few years later, under Owsley Brown's leadership, Brown-Forman weathered Prohibition as one of a few distilleries which operated under a provision in the Volsted Act which allowed the sale of alcoholic beverages for medicinal use. Brown was able to obtain one of the ten permits granted for these sales. Laura Brown's father established W.L. Lyons brokerage firm (now Hilliard-Lyons Co. Inc.). The couple named their home "The Avish", gaelic for "rocky hill". This name was that of the family ancestral home in Ireland. The Avish was established near Brown's boyhood retreat at Nitta Yuma.

The District became a blue chip enclave after the entry of the Browns. Subsequent constructions were built by friends and relatives of the Brown family, and The Avish has followed a lineal transfer to family members. When the Brown-Forman Company published a pamphlet, Kentucky Bourbon: the Heart of Hospitality. The Avish figured prominently on the cover, embodying the ideal Kentucky country estate. The house was passed to daughter Amelia Brown Frazier, a major community philanthropist and leader. Her son Owsley Brown Frazier and wife LaVera Frazier now own the property.

Owsley Brown purchased an adjacent tract of land in 1927 for his son W. L. Lyons Brown and wife Sara S. Brown, who purchased the property outright from the elder Brown in 1944. This property, Ashbourne, was an early 19th century farmstead which

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had witnessed a variety of owners. The property achieved its significance following its transformation to a country estate by the younger Browns. The Browns created a formal garden to the rear of the main house and later employed the services of Olmsted and Associates to transform the rural setting into a designed landscape. The farm became important as a backdrop for the estate, and the rich soil supported the plants, flowers and trees which complemented the residence. Also, the Browns raised shorthorn cattle, and thoroughbred horses. The property continues to be used agriculturally.

The 1920s witnessed construction of two major estates in the District exhibiting newly-popularized architectural styles. The new houses which appeared emulated the English manor houses of the landed gentry and reflected a solution to the social conflict industrialization had spawned. With a remolded landscape and all of the appurtenances in place necessary to support the country estate, "a man's home truly was his castle." (1) The main dwellings of the Theodore Mueller House/Shady Brook Farm (JF556) and The Bingham-Hilliard Estate were chiseled into the rocky ridge and placed above their support buildings and gardens. The land around the domestic complex was professionally landscaped and designed to shield and shade the house with large deciduous trees, and to provide vistas of the property with low, clipped bushes and hedges.

The Theodore Mueller House (JF556) was built ca. 1926. Mueller was the vice president and general manager of the Standard Sanitary Manufacturing Company, manufacturers of brass goods and plumbing fixtures and supplies. Mueller was the grandson of Theodore Ahrens founder of Ahrens and Ott plumbing manufacturers, precursor of the Standard. Mueller's uncle, Theodore Ahrens, Jr., was president of the company and a known philanthrope. Ahrens had given a donation to the school board to found the Theodore Ahrens Trade School as part of the Jefferson County School system.

Mueller, a native of Louisville had moved back to the city from Pennsylvania where he had worked as a pattern maker for the Pittsburgh plant. Mueller married Patty Johnston in 1915 and the couple resided in Shively, near the Standard plant.

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Mueller's entre into the community from southwest Jefferson County marked a new emphasis on a family's address. Suburban addresses became a symbol of prestige and an elite society. Only the very rich could afford the cost of the land, the scale of the construction, and the daily expense of transporting the family to the city for work and school.

Mueller called his home Shady Brook Farm. The Mueller family owned this house until 1961. The current owners of the house are Roy and LaVerne McMahan. The property since its establishment as an estate has sustained agricultural usage and continues to do so.

Judge Robert Worth Bingham had a house built in the District for his namesake son in 1927. Bingham was publisher of the Courier-Journal and The Louisville Times and would serve between 1934 and 1937 as ambassador to the Court of St. James. He served on the boards of directors for the L&N Railroad and Liberty National Bank. He was president of the Louisville Jockey Club and owned the Associated Press wire service.

Bingham wanted to establish his son into an affluent and fashionable suburban development. Other members of the Bingham family lived in similar country estates in the nearby Glenview Historic District (Melcombe JF551, Humphrey-Bingham House, JF553).

The Bingham-Hilliard Estate (JF557) was designed by Hugh Nevin and Frederick Morgan, noted Louisville architects. They had also designed Cobble Court (JF548), and Drumanard (JF565) similarly styled English manor houses. The formal garden was designed in 1928 by Arthur W. Cowell, a well-known landscape architect of Pennsylvania, who also planned the landscaping for Drumanard and Ridgeway (JF388) during the 1920s restoration of that house. The formal garden was not completed until 1966 by Mary Stanton Doll. She executed the original Cowell plan, and the garden is highly maintained. The garden was designed to extend from the front door of the house. Elements that mimicked the architecture of the main dwelling were integrated into the garden. Curved stone stairs lead from the the front of the house, down into the garden. The ample fenestration on the main facade affords the inhabitants generous views of the linear, symmetrical planned space. The formal garden is sheltered from public view by expanses of shrubs and trees.

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The main dwelling rests on solid stone, clinging to the steep ridge line. The rear yard experiences a dramatic drop-off, falling to treed pasture and open fields below. This transition area flows into the cultivated farm fields in the lowlands, visible from the public road.

Bingham's son moved away from Louisville prior to occupying the house, and the house was sold to Byron and Alice Hilliard in 1934. Hilliard was in partnership with Laura Lyons Brown's family in the brokerage firm Hilliard-Lyons. The estate was sold to current owners A. Robert and Mary Stanton Doll in 1965.

There have been several residences constructed between 1959 and the present on property originally associated with The Avish. The houses were built for family members of the Browns. These houses are considered to be noncontributing; however, their placement in the landscape was made in an unobtrusive manner and does not detract from the nearby estates.

The Harrods Creek Historic District serves to illustrate an important chapter in Jefferson County's social history. Prominent families shaped not only the community's economic and political structure, but its material and social culture as well, through art, architecture and landscape architecture.

Endnotes

(1) Historians view this look back to the Medieval world for cultural and artistic models as an antimodernist ethic. People were dissatisfied with social changes which industrialization had spawned and which threatened to undermine established social order. This threat manifested itself in a variety of ways. For example, early feminists attacked the home and considered it to be "the enemy of the woman . . . her oppressor." Further, the homes of the day were viewed as "the representatives of a system which must be attacked" The use of the country estate was one method to provide sufficient environmental change and a new lifestyle and to remove families from contact with decaying moral elements of urban life. Traditional roles and values regained prominence. Order was restored. T. J. Jackson Lears, No Place of Grace, 159; Gwendolyn Wright, Moralism and the Model Home, 156.

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Jefferson County, KentuckyRegistration Requirements

The Harrods Creek Historic District is a representative example of the Country Estate Property Type within which have been developed standards for inclusion of specific properties. The District achieves its significance based on the quality of its architecture and landscape design. Little variation from the originally executed landscape plan is tolerated for a property to maintain significance. Therefore, properties nominated under this criteria are expected to maintain high levels of integrity.

Two integrated elements are necessary for properties to be evaluated within the Country Estate Property Type. An architect designed primary residence with high integrity, sometimes with service and ancillary buildings, must be present. A designed landscape, frequently planned in tandem with the construction of the main house, must be in place. A third but optional element is a formal garden.

The properties evaluated in this nomination meet the registration requirements of the Country Estate Property Type, and together form a historic district. All properties exhibit fine, high-style residences and designed landscapes, and all, except the Cochran House (JF558), host a formal garden.

Two of the properties in the District emphasize agriculture as a role of the estate. Ashbourne, originally developed as an early nineteenth century farm, was converted into a country estate by W.L. Lyons and Sarah Brown in the 1930s. With this in mind, it is clear that Ashbourne fits the registration requirements for this property type, while retaining service buildings from an earlier era.

The Theodore Mueller House/Shady Brook Farm (JF556) varies from the other estates in that it was also designed as a farm in some respects, complete with agricultural outbuildings. However, it differs from Ashbourne in that agriculture was never intended as the main economic provider, but only as entertainment for the owners and later minor economic benefit.

The District contains a series of high-style architect-designed building complexes, at least one of which was authored by the locally-important firm of Nevin and Morgan. In addition the design landscape theme retained the extant lowland floodplain for agricultural use, providing a unique element to this particular country estate complex. Formal gardens--an optional element--are present on all but one property, and include one by noted designer Arthur Cowell.

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The functional interdependence of the buildings and designed landscape remains clearly evident in the Harrods Creek Historic District. This nomination takes five individual country estates and combines them to form a District, recognizing the interrelationships between the properties. The placement and function of the interior roadway and open pastures bordering on the main artery through the District, serve to connect the separate properties and tie them together as a cohesive and contiguous entity.

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The District contains a series of high-style architect-designed building complexes, at least one of which was authored by the locally-important firm of Nevin and Morgan. In addition the design landscape theme retained the extant lowland floodplain for agricultural usage, providing a unique element to this particular country estate complex. Formal gardens -- an optional element -- are present on all but one property, and include one by noted designer Arthur Cowell.

The functional interdependence of the buildings and designed landscape remains clearly evident in the Harrods Creek Historic District. This nomination takes five individual country estates and combines them to form a District, recognizing the interrelationships between the properties. The placement and function of Avish Lane, and open shared pastures bordering on the main artery through the District, serve to connect the separate properties and tie them together as a cohesive and contiguous entity.

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The Harrods Creek Historic District is bounded by Upper River Road to the west and north, the Nitta Yuma Historic District to the east, and the confluence of Little Goose Creek and Goose Creek to the south. The District encompasses all of the buildings, structures and sites which were historically associated with the country estate enclave initiated by Owsley Brown and reflect the elements of the Country Estate Property Type.

This is a boundary expansion for JF556 Theodore Mueller/Shady Brook Farm, JF557 Bingham-Hilliard Estate, and JF570 Ashbourne. The houses on these properties were previously listed on the National Register as individual buildings.

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JF556 Theodore Mueller House/Shady Brook Farm
R.F., Jr. and LaVerne McMahan
Avish Lane
Harrods Creek, Kentucky 40027

JF557 Bingham-Hilliard House
A. Robert and Mary Stanton Doll
5001 Avish Lane
Harrods Creek, Kentucky 40027

JF558 Cochran House
Eunice Wymond
5203 Avish Lane
Harrods Creek, Kentucky 40027

JF570 Ashbourne
Sarah Brown
6328 River Road
Harrods Creek, Kentucky 40027

JF771 The Avish
LaVera and Owsley Brown Frazier
5224 Avish Lane
Harrods Creek, Kentucky 40027

Mailing Address:
c/o Brown-Forman Corp.
P.O. Box 1080
Louisville, Kentucky

Laura Frazier Huneke
6302 Wolf Pen Branch Road
Harrods Creek, Kentucky 40027

Keith and Mary Brown Williams
5206 Avish Lane
Harrods Creek, Kentucky 40027

Mary Ellen Hurt
5204 Avish Lane
Harrods Creek, Kentucky 40027

Robinson Brown, Jr.
5208 Avish Lane
Harrods Creek, Kentucky 40027

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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 91001679 Date Listed: 11/22/91

Harrods Creek Historic District Jefferson KY
Property Name: County: State:

Louisville and Jefferson County MRA
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Patrick Andrus
Signature of the Keeper

11/22/91
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

The Period of Significance for this historic district has been extended to end in 1940 (to coincide with the Period of Significance defined in the Multiple Property Documentation Form). Criteria Consideration G was inadvertently checked on this nomination form - it does not apply. Marty Perry with the KY SHPO has been consulted on these issues. The form is officially amended to extend the Period of Significance.

DISTRIBUTION:
National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

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For All Photos

Nomination: Harrods Creek Historic District
Location: Wolf Pen & River Roads, Harrods Creek, Kentucky
Photographers: Leslee Keys (all photos except the following list)
Donna Neary (photos: 8, 11, 12, 13, 18, & 19)
Negative Location: Jefferson Co. Office of Historic Preservation & Archives
Louisville, Kentucky
Date Taken: January & June 1991

Photo No.

View or Elevation

- | | |
|----|---|
| 1 | Southeast looking toward Ashbourne (JF-570), main dwelling |
| 2 | Southeast, guest cottage, Ashbourne (JF-570) |
| 3 | Northwest, cottage and grounds, Ashbourne (JF-570) |
| 4 | East, looking toward barn & pasture, Ashbourne (JF-570) |
| 5 | Southwest, overview of country estate, Ashbourne (JF-570) |
| 6 | Southeast, Cochran House (JF-558) |
| 7 | East, the Avish (JF-771) |
| 8 | Southeast, view of vegetable garden & outbuildings, the Avish (JF-771) |
| 9 | Northwest, view of curvilinear drive & landscaping |
| 10 | Southeast, view of district |
| 11 | North, view of district |
| 12 | Southeast, view of stone gates, entrance to district |
| 13 | Southeast, view of tree-lined entrance to district |
| 14 | Southeast, view of district roadway |
| 15 | Southeast, view of district roadway |
| 16 | South, view of creek |
| 17 | Southwest, view of Theodore Mueller House/Shady Brook Farm (JF-556) and grounds |
| 18 | Northeast, view of pasture, looking toward Bingham-Hilliard Estate (JF-557) |
| 19 | Southeast, view of pasture, Theodore Mueller House/Shady Brook Farm (JF-556) |
| 20 | Southwest, Bingham-Hilliard Estate (JF-557), main dwelling |

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<u>Photo No.</u>	<u>View or Elevation</u>
21	Northeast, grounds and rear of main dwelling, Bingham-Hilliard Estate (JF-557)
22	South, view of formal garden, Bingham-Hilliard Estate (JF-557)
23	South, view of district
24	South, view of non-contributing elements in district

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PHOTO KEY

HARRODS CREEK
HISTORIC DISTRICT

