

PH0508241

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED OCT 31 1977

DATE ENTERED FEB 8 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Escondida

AND/OR COMMON

Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Route 4, Escondida Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Paris *vic.*

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

06

STATE

Kentucky

CODE

021

COUNTY

Bourbon

CODE

017

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
- COMMERICAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. James Graves

STREET & NUMBER

Route 4, Escondida Road

CITY, TOWN

Paris

VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Bourbon County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Paris

STATE

Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky

DATE

1971

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		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Escondida, a central Kentucky interpretation of Jeffersonian Neo-classicism, is located in the rich farmland area of southern Bourbon County. This rural residence is 1 1/2 miles northeast of the small community of Clintonville, and eight miles southwest of Paris, the county seat. Built ca. 1822, Escondida was an object of neglect for many years, but was sympathetically restored by the current owners in 1972.

Facing southeast towards the Escondida Road from which it is clearly visible, the house consists of a one-and-one-half-story, five-bay central section flanked by a one-story, two-bay wing on the east and a one-and-one-half-story, three-bay wing on the west (see photo 1). The three sections are covered by gabled roofs, and the construction is of brick laid in common bond. There is a total of nine chimneys built into the walls, with that on the far east being false though necessary for balance. The porte-cochere at the far west was added in 1972 and is well integrated--complimenting the one-story, pedimented portico serving three bays of the central section.

The portico has four small columns resting on pedestals and two engaged columns--all connected by a balustrade. In the pediment is a leaded elliptical fanlight that inflects the fanlight above the entrance. The entrance contains double doors and has sidelights with "leaf-like" lead tracery (see photo 2). A brick course envelops the elliptical fanlight and a concave recess in the portico's ceiling is aligned between this and the fanlight in the pediment (see photo 2). During the 1972 restoration, a brick floor laid in herringbone pattern replaced the original wooden one (see photos 1a and 2). The balustrade and one column had deteriorated beyond repair, but were carefully reproduced.

Around the turn of the century, the original panes were removed and shutters were inserted in the upper thirds of the central section's windows (see photo 1a). Small panes were reinstalled; twelve-over-eight in the first floor of the central section and nine-over-six in all others. Segmental arched openings at the foundation level provide ventilation for the basement, splayed jack arches are above all windows, and two courses of molded bricks form a cornice (see photo 3) on the front and rear of the wings.

The gabled roof slopes deeply at the rear to shelter a gallery that was originally ten bays wide (see photos 4 and 4a). These bays are defined by chamfered posts with lamb's-tongue beveling. The wooden floor was replaced by a brick floor like that of the portico, and the balustrade--dismantled at an undetermined time--was duplicated as closely as possible.

(continued)

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1822

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Escondida (Spanish for "Hideaway") was built ca. 1822 and attains significance through its association with two of Kentucky's most prominent 19th century families. The house is, in addition, architecturally important by being an outstanding example of Jeffersonian Neo-classicism in central Kentucky.

Like residences designed by Jefferson, the central feature of Escondida is a white portico on a larger section that is flanked by wings. Also in the Jeffersonian vein are the main facade's roofs of low pitch, straight-topped windows, a fanlight in the pediment and over the entrance, and the position of the staircase in an inconspicuous location. The portico, however, is much lighter than what Jefferson would have prescribed, and is in concordance with the delicate lead tracery of the sidelights and elliptical fanlights. This tracery was later repeated in the entrance of "Auvergne," a residence seven miles northeast built in 1837 for Brutus Clay, the brother of Escondida's original owner.

The rear of Escondida is reminiscent of those houses of the lower Mississippi River Valley erected in the latter half of the 18th century. Although the floor is not elevated, there is a sweeping roof overhang that covers a gallery similar to those of the deep South. The exterior gives little indication of the surprisingly large rooms inside. An impressive amount of original woodwork has survived, including an attractive array of fine late Federal mantels. The 1900 stone barn in close proximity differs vastly in construction materials, scale, and style, yet provides an interesting juxtaposition to this noteworthy survivor of Bourbon County's and central Kentucky's finest early 19th century rural residences.

Formed in 1785, Bourbon County was one of the nine counties established by the Virginia legislature before Kentucky became an independent commonwealth in 1792. This county has long been recognized for its position "in the heart of the garden of Kentucky-- the surface gently undulating, the soil remarkably rich and productive, based on limestone, with red clay foundation."¹

¹Richard H. Collins, History of Kentucky (privately printed, 1874), Vol. II, p. 66.

(continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Armstrong and Irelan. The Biographical Encyclopedia of Kentucky of the Dead and Living Men of the Nineteenth Century. Cincinnati: Western Methodist Book Concern, 1878.

Collins, Richard H. History of Kentucky. Privately printed, 1874.

Additional information supplied through interviews with Mrs. Edna T. Whitley, Kentucky Heritage Commission, Bourbon County Representative, September 1977; and Mr. Robert McMeekin, A.I.A., September 1977.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 1/2 acres

UTM REFERENCES

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

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Daniel Kidd, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Kentucky Heritage Commission

DATE

September 1977

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

Charles W. Melts 10/26/77

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ATTEST

Charles W. Melts
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

2-8-78

DATE

2-7-78

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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Escondida

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 2

Only the central dormer is original; the flanking ones were added during the restoration and are successful in breaking up the otherwise tiresome roof. The gallery has been extended at a lower level by two bays on the west with the posts being careful reproductions of the original ones.

The main entrance on the south opens into a central hall flanked by a parlor on the east and a dining room on the west. Originally, the ceilings of these rooms were sixteen feet high, but these have been lowered by two feet, and heavy crown molding has been added to visually lower them further. North of the hall is a sitting room flanked by rooms of equal size which appear to have served as bedrooms, as does the single room of the east wing. The west wing consists of a kitchen at the north, and a quarter-turn-with-winders staircase and a small room at the south. The latter was perhaps used as a study. The kitchen has been completely refurbished, but a large stone fireplace on the west wall has been retained. The eastern third of the kitchen was transformed into a bath/powder room during the restoration, and another first-floor bathroom was unobtrusively attached at the northeast corner.

Surprisingly, the narrow staircase with decorative stringers in the west wing (see photo 5) provides the only access to the second level. A second staircase leading from the kitchen had been taken out long ago. There were five chambers on this level connected by a lateral hall along the north wall. The central two of these have been transformed into a double bathroom, but a sizeable closet lit by the fanlight in the pediment behind this area has been retained.

The original hardware was taken to Duncan Tavern in nearby Paris in the early 1960s, but almost all interior woodwork remains. These include baseboards that have square blocks at the bottom of frames (see photo 5), multi-paneled doors, chair-railing, and mantels in every room (excepting the kitchen) that observe a hierarchy--the most elaborate ones being in the more formal rooms (see photos 6-11). Also retained are three built-in presses whose doors are treated with fourteen panels (see photo 12). A notable feature of these is the gradation in size of the panels upwards. Excepting a minor section, all original yellow poplar flooring is intact.

(continued)

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Escondida

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ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 3

Approximately 150 feet southwest of Escondida is a handsome stone barn erected in 1900 (see photo 13). This structure may have been designed by the New York architect, H. I. Copeland, who was in Kentucky at that time designing structures for the famed Lexington farm, Elmendorf. The openings of the barn at Escondida have segmental arches above and the eaves are bracketed on all sides. At either end is an oriel window in the gable peak, each being covered by a three-sided roof section. Their scale is in harmony with the three oversized dormers projecting from the gabled roof on the north. Two stone chimneys rise above the roof ridge on the south, and there is a hipped roof cupola towards the west.

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Escondida

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

Escondida was built by General Green Clay for his son, Sidney Payne Clay, who was born in 1800 at Whitehall (entered on the National Register March 17, 1971) in Madison County, Kentucky. This house is on the site of a 2100 acre tract granted to Green Clay by Governor Patrick Henry of Virginia in recognition of Clay's services during the Revolutionary War. Whitehall later became the home of Sidney's younger brother, Cassius Marcellus Clay, a renowned abolitionist, soldier, legislator, and diplomat. General Clay had come to Kentucky in 1777 from Powhatan County, Virginia to act as a surveyor for the Virginia Claims Office. He made a habit of taking his fees in acreage and thus acquired large tracts of highly desirable land. Green Clay later distinguished himself as a member of the Virginia and Kentucky legislatures, and as an important figure in the 1813 Battle of Fort Meigs against the British--a battle in which he led three thousand Kentucky volunteers to relieve the besieged General William Henry Harrison.²

Sidney Payne Clay was born in Madison County, Kentucky and was graduated from Princeton University. Upon his marriage in 1822, he moved to Escondida where he later died at the age of 33. After the death of his wife, Isabella Reed Clay, the house was resided in by Sidney Clay, Jr., and the Clay family held ownership of the property until 1896.

The next owner was Robert Trimble Ford, grandson and namesake of Associate U. S. Supreme Court Justice, Robert Trimble. The Ford family had come to Bourbon County from Virginia in 1789 to operate a mill. They moved to the deep South in 1819, though, where they acquired large tracts of land in Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi--formulating a huge fortune from interests in sugar and cotton. Robert Ford, born in 1833, augmented the inherited wealth from his father, James Coleman Ford, by successfully investing in silver and lead mines in the West. The purchase of Escondida seems to have been a strategic one, for this property adjoined land his family had retained in southern Bourbon County despite their long absence from the area. Ford, who was in his eighties when he moved to Escondida, filled the residence with numerous fine pieces of furniture and objets d' art, and an auction of these items following his death in 1910 attracted considerable local attention. He

²Armstrong and Irelan, The Biographical Encyclopedia of Kentucky of the Dead and Living Men of the Nineteenth Century (Cincinnati: Western Methodist Book Concern, 1878), p. 353.

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Escondida

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ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 3

had the neighboring stone barn erected in 1900, and may have employed the New York architect, H. I. Copeland, to provide the design. An interior elevator, which was quite an innovation at the time, is still in operating order and was installed to transport his many carriages from one level to another. After 1911, the property changed hands several times with the house being used as a tenant dwelling and falling into disrepair until its acquisition by Mr. and Mrs. James Graves in 1971.

Escondida
Paris vicinity
Bourbon County
Kentucky

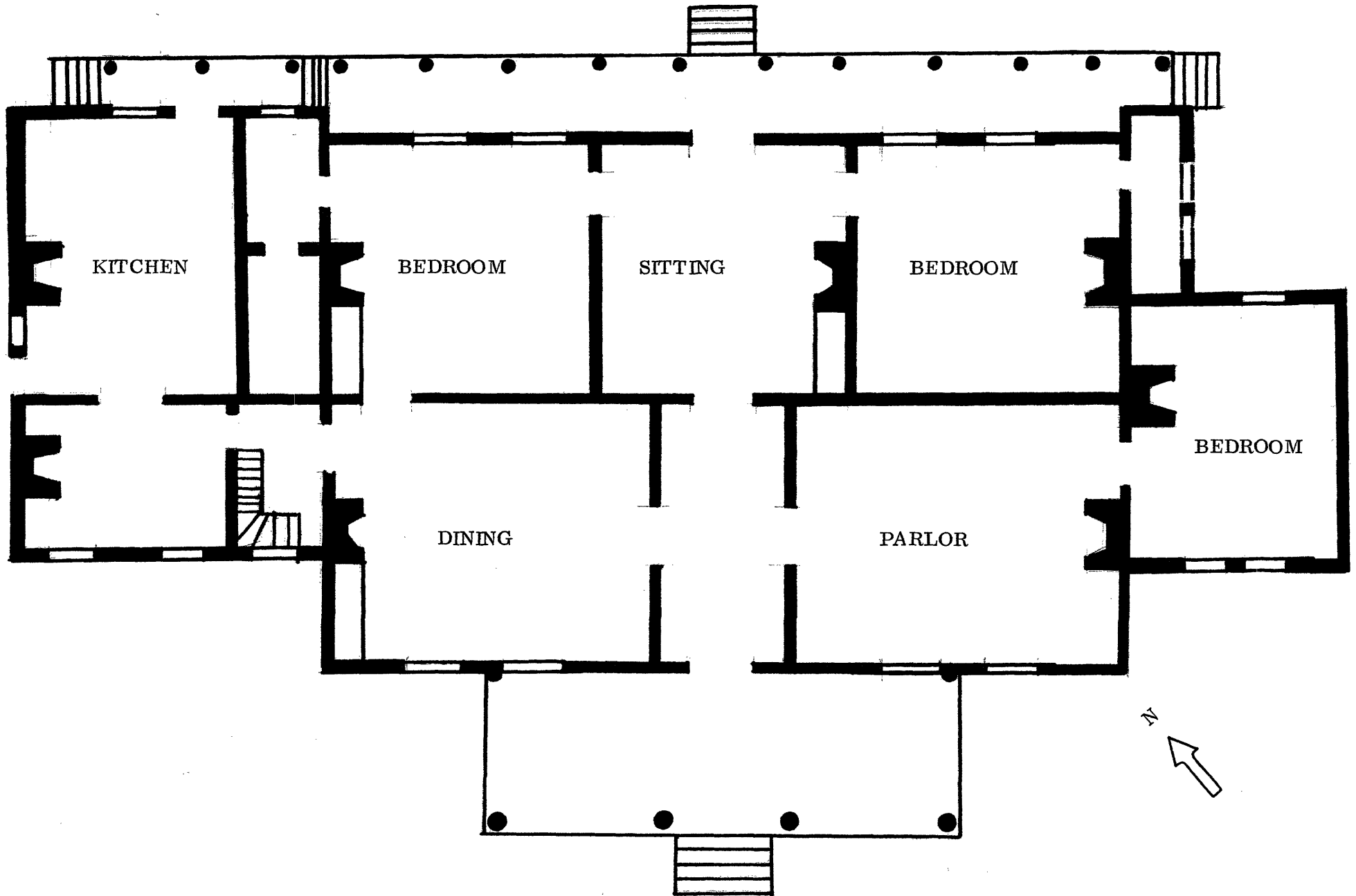
Atlas of Bourbon, Clark, Fayette,
Jessamine and Woodford Counties,
Kentucky. Philadelphia: D. G.
Beers and J. Lanagan, 1877.

Map 2. Escondida is outlined
in red.

FEB 8 1978 OCT 31 1977

ESCONDIDA
BOURBON COUNTY, KENTUCKY

FIRST FLOOR
NO SCALE



Escondida
Paris vicinity
Bourbon County
Kentucky

FEB 8 1978

OCT 31 1977

First floor plan.
Daniel Kidd
September 1977 No Scale.
Map 3. Sketch of first floor.

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Escondida

AND/OR COMMON

Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Route 4, Escondida Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Paris

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

06

STATE

Kentucky

CODE

021

COUNTY

Bourbon

CODE

017

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

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- UNOCCUPIED
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- MILITARY
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- PARK
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- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. James Graves

STREET & NUMBER

Route 4, Escondida Road

CITY, TOWN

Paris

VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Bourbon County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Paris

STATE

Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky

DATE

1971

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

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(continued)

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
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__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1822

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 1/2 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 741440 4222310
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 C

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Daniel Kidd, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Kentucky Heritage Commission

DATE

September 1977

STREET & NUMBER

104 Bridge Street

TELEPHONE

(502) 564-3741

CITY OR TOWN

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

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Charles W. Melton 10/26/77

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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ATTEST

Charles W. Melton
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

2-8-78

DATE

2-7-78

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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Escondida

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PAGE 2

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The main entrance on the south opens into a central hall flanked by a parlor on the east and a dining room on the west. Originally, the ceilings of these rooms were sixteen feet high, but these have been lowered by two feet, and heavy crown molding has been added to visually lower them further. North of the hall is a sitting room flanked by rooms of equal size which appear to have served as bedrooms, as does the single room of the east wing. The west wing consists of a kitchen at the north, and a quarter-turn-with-winders staircase and a small room at the south. The latter was perhaps used as a study. The kitchen has been completely refurbished, but a large stone fireplace on the west wall has been retained. The eastern third of the kitchen was transformed into a bath/powder room during the restoration, and another first-floor bathroom was unobtrusively attached at the northeast corner.

Surprisingly, the narrow staircase with decorative stringers in the west wing (see photo 5) provides the only access to the second level. A second staircase leading from the kitchen had been taken out long ago. There were five chambers on this level connected by a lateral hall along the north wall. The central two of these have been transformed into a double bathroom, but a sizeable closet lit by the fanlight in the pediment behind this area has been retained.

The original hardware was taken to Duncan Tavern in nearby Paris in the early 1960s, but almost all interior woodwork remains. These include baseboards that have square blocks at the bottom of frames (see photo 5), multi-paneled doors, chair-railing, and mantels in every room (excepting the kitchen) that observe a hierarchy--the most elaborate ones being in the more formal rooms (see photos 6-11). Also retained are three built-in presses whose doors are treated with fourteen panels (see photo 12). A notable feature of these is the gradation in size of the panels upwards. Excepting a minor section, all original yellow poplar flooring is intact.

(continued)

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Approximately 150 feet southwest of Escondida is a handsome stone barn erected in 1900 (see photo 13). This structure may have been designed by the New York architect, H. I. Copeland, who was in Kentucky at that time designing structures for the famed Lexington farm, Elmendorf. The openings of the barn at Escondida have segmental arches above and the eaves are bracketed on all sides. At either end is an oriel window in the gable peak, each being covered by a three-sided roof section. Their scale is in harmony with the three oversized dormers projecting from the gabled roof on the north. Two stone chimneys rise above the roof ridge on the south, and there is a hipped roof cupola towards the west.

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Escondida was built by General Green Clay for his son, Sidney Payne Clay, who was born in 1800 at Whitehall (entered on the National Register March 17, 1971) in Madison County, Kentucky. This house is on the site of a 2100 acre tract granted to Green Clay by Governor Patrick Henry of Virginia in recognition of Clay's services during the Revolutionary War. Whitehall later became the home of Sidney's younger brother, Cassius Marcellus Clay, a renowned abolitionist, soldier, legislator, and diplomat. General Clay had come to Kentucky in 1777 from Powhatan County, Virginia to act as a surveyor for the Virginia Claims Office. He made a habit of taking his fees in acreage and thus acquired large tracts of highly desirable land. Green Clay later distinguished himself as a member of the Virginia and Kentucky legislatures, and as an important figure in the 1813 Battle of Fort Meigs against the British--a battle in which he led three thousand Kentucky volunteers to relieve the besieged General William Henry Harrison.²

Sidney Payne Clay was born in Madison County, Kentucky and was graduated from Princeton University. Upon his marriage in 1822, he moved to Escondida where he later died at the age of 33. After the death of his wife, Isabella Reed Clay, the house was resided in by Sidney Clay, Jr., and the Clay family held ownership of the property until 1896.

The next owner was Robert Trimble Ford, grandson and namesake of Associate U. S. Supreme Court Justice, Robert Trimble. The Ford family had come to Bourbon County from Virginia in 1789 to operate a mill. They moved to the deep South in 1819, though, where they acquired large tracts of land in Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi--formulating a huge fortune from interests in sugar and cotton. Robert Ford, born in 1833, augmented the inherited wealth from his father, James Coleman Ford, by successfully investing in silver and lead mines in the West. The purchase of Escondida seems to have been a strategic one, for this property adjoined land his family had retained in southern Bourbon County despite their long absence from the area. Ford, who was in his eighties when he moved to Escondida, filled the residence with numerous fine pieces of furniture and objets d' art, and an auction of these items following his death in 1910 attracted considerable local attention. He

²Armstrong and Irelan, The Biographical Encyclopedia of Kentucky of the Dead and Living Men of the Nineteenth Century (Cincinnati: Western Methodist Book Concern, 1878), p. 353.

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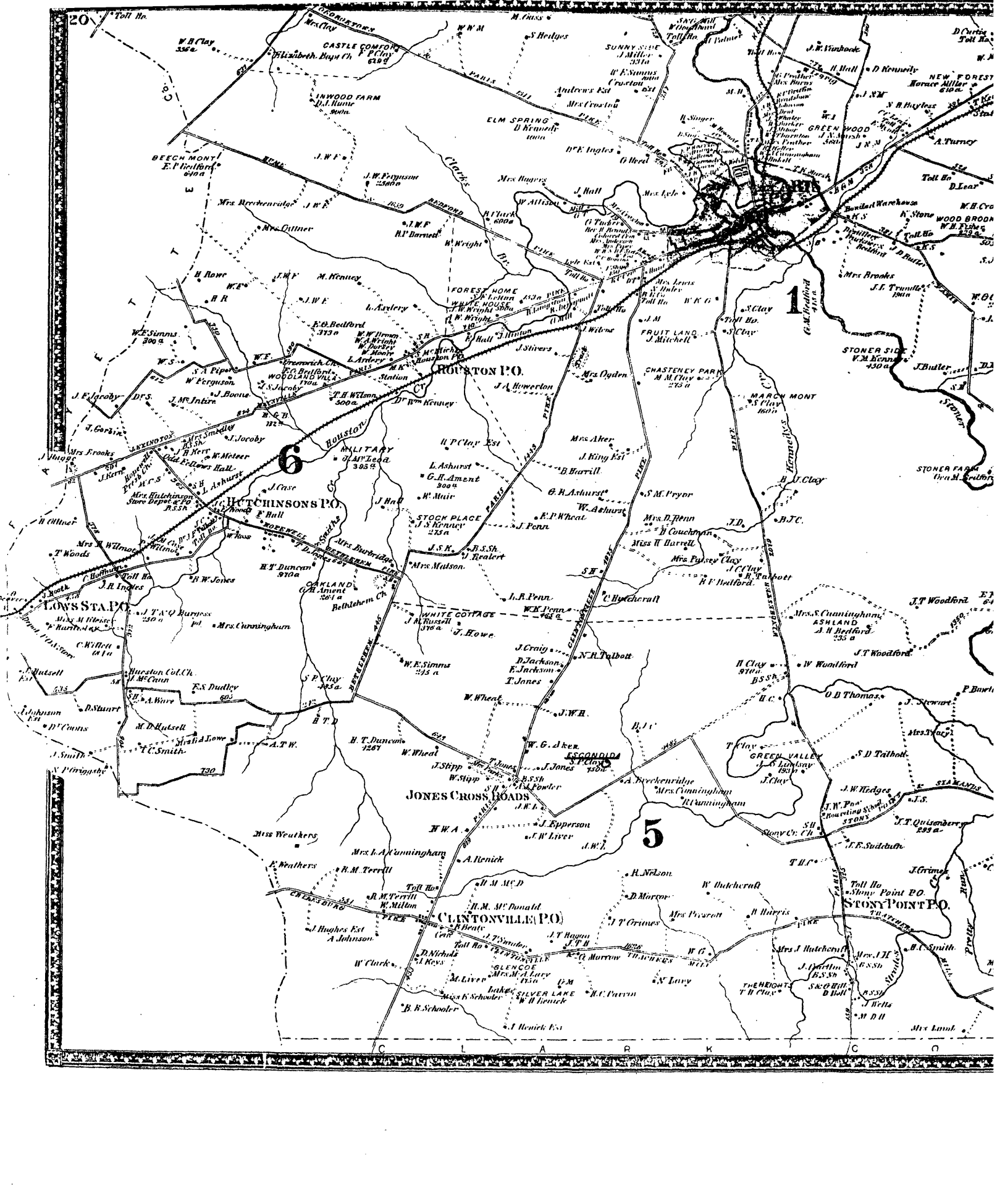
Escondida

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had the neighboring stone barn erected in 1900, and may have employed the New York architect, H. I. Copeland, to provide the design. An interior elevator, which was quite an innovation at the time, is still in operating order and was installed to transport his many carriages from one level to another. After 1911, the property changed hands several times with the house being used as a tenant dwelling and falling into disrepair until its acquisition by Mr. and Mrs. James Graves in 1971.



Escondida
Paris vicinity
Bourbon County
Kentucky

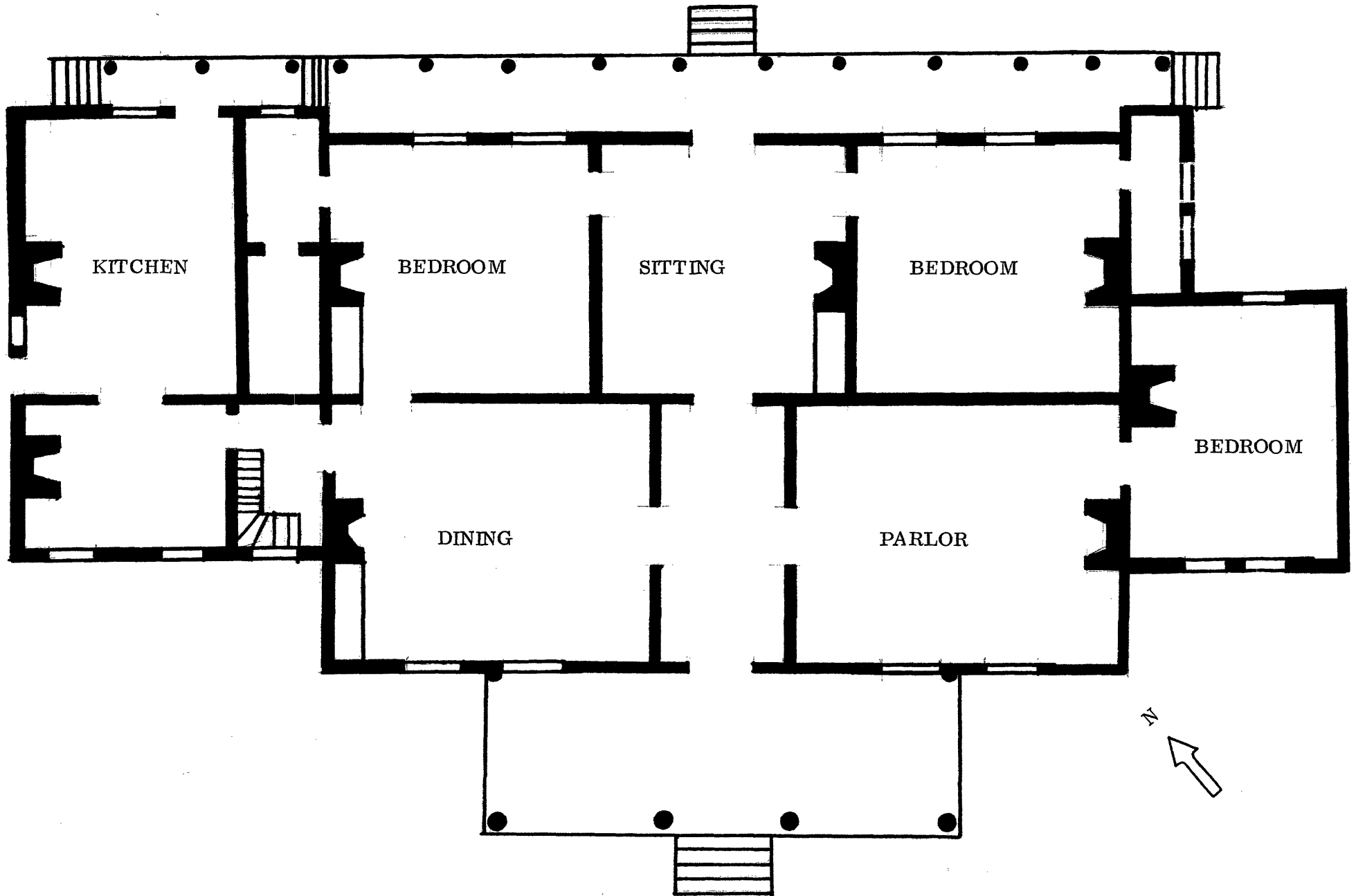
Atlas of Bourbon, Clark, Fayette,
Jessamine and Woodford Counties,
Kentucky. Philadelphia: D. G.
Beers and J. Lanagan, 1877.

Map 2. Escondida is outlined
in red.

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ESCONDIDA
BOURBON COUNTY, KENTUCKY

FIRST FLOOR
NO SCALE



Escondida
Paris vicinity
Bourbon County
Kentucky

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First floor plan.
Daniel Kidd
September 1977 No Scale.
Map 3. Sketch of first floor.