

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



8774

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Clifton

other names/site number Cliff View, Woodland Farm, LLC, Wood Island, Inc.

2. Location

street & number 4801 Greenhaven Lane NA not for publication

city or town Goshen vicinity

state Kentucky code KY county Oldham code 185 zip code 40026

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

David L. Morgan Executive Director 7-1-97
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Patrick Andrews

8/18/97

Clifton
Name of Property

Oldham County, KY
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
9	8	buildings
3	0	sites
1	0	structures
0	0	objects
13	8	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Category: AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE
Subcategory: agricultural fields,
animal facilities, agricultural
outbuildings.

Category: DOMESTIC, Subcategory:
single dwelling, camp.

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Category: AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE
Subcategory: agricultural fields
animal facilities, agricultural
outbuildings.

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival
Federal

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation cut and broken stone
walls brick
roof asbestos shingles
other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

see continuation sheets

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture

Period of Significance

1813 - 1945

Significant Dates

1813, 1817, 1827, 1840, 1850, 1855,
1864, 1899, 1956

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

see continuation sheets

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.) see continuation sheet

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Clifton
Name of Property

Oldham County, KY
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1,019

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	16	633570	4259540
Zone	Easting	Northing	
2	16	634180	4257800

3	16	629940	4257250
Zone	Easting	Northing	
4	16	632400	4259410

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

see continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

see continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jack Harrison

organization _____ date April 13, 1997

street & number 2736 Frankfort Ave, Apt 104 telephone (502)897-3057

city or town Louisville state KY zip code 40206

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Woodland Farm, LLC Wood Island, Inc.

street & number 4801 Greenhaven Lane telephone (502)228-1208

city or town Goshen state KY zip code 40026

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of property: Clifton
Location: Oldham County, KY

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Clifton lies in Oldham County along the Ohio River from Eighteen Mile Creek, down river, to Dunbar Hollow. Its northern boundary includes approximately seven thousand feet of Ohio River shore line, plus the shore line of Eighteen Mile Island. The island's 150 acres, more or less, of land was used to grow crops and as pasture land from around 1850 until 1964 when the down river acreage was leased to the Ohio River-Oldham County Water District for the location of its well and pumps. The remainder of the land has been allowed to return to its natural state. In some histories of Westport, and in the recollection of persons who occupied the on-shore property, there are accounts of the distillation of moonshine from the corn crop. The finished product was sent to Louisville in two speed boats. During prohibition Federal Revenuers raided the island at one point but the moonshiners were never apprehended, and the still disappeared, never to be found.

Starting at the river the property slopes gradually upward for a distance of about fifty feet from the river's edge to a natural levee leading to the second bottom, thirty feet higher. The lower fifty feet of river front land is very susceptible to flooding, and is very marshy in nature.

Since the early nineteenth century this second bottom land has been used for raising crops of hay and corn, and as pasture land. The soil is alluvium and, through the years has been productive in the growing of these crops. This portion of the farm is seldom ravaged by flood, but does retain moisture that is conducive to the production of fine crops of corn, hay and grasses for the animals. Today this portion of the farm is used much the same as it was 184 years ago. Through the years there have been several structures built in the area. The most prominent of these structures being a corn crib and feed lot, for fattening the hog for market, built at the turn of the twentieth century, and added to between 1920 and 1930. The other is a small cottage called "The Camp" that was built by the Gottbraths in the 1920s. The original portion of this structure was built on a cut stone foundation with weatherboard siding. It contained one room and was used during the summer by Bert Gottbrath while working the bottom land and looking after the hog production area. There are also remnants of an old landing constructed in the 1880's to complement the transportation of hogs, cattle and other farm products to market. Around 1920 the Gottbraths improved the landing by adding the concrete that we see today. Still in use, as a hay barn, is a structure standing some 100 yards south of a small pond. This was a live stock barn that had been damaged by flood and refurbished around 1895. It is of pole construction with vertical wood exterior walls. The locust poles, set on mud sills, have been reinforced over the years, but the building is still in average condition. Further south, about fifty yards is another hay barn built in the 1950s that is still in use. This structure, in poor condition, has straight wood siding and a dirt floor. Deeper into the eastern portion

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of the property and some 100 yards from Eighteen Mile Creek is an area of the bottoms known as Hidden Valley. This area consists of fifty-six acres of pasture land, and has one small barn. This barn is of the 1955 vintage and is in very poor condition. The Hidden Valley portion of the farm may be viewed from the village of Westport, and presents a very pastoral scene in the spring of the year.

Going south from the bottom land there is a sharp cliff. Standing atop the cliff is the manor house, "Clifton Hall", as it has been called in the past. It is a stately, red brick home built during the Greek Revival period. Its grandeur is evident from the bottom land even as you look up the cliff to the house some 270 feet above the river front. It's lofty position, size and beauty make it the most noted land mark on the river for miles in either direction. Before the Crop of Engineers installed navigational markers, river boat captains used this home as a landmark to navigate the Ohio. One can only imagine the exquisite sight this home presented in the days when it was painted white.

This steep incline from the bottom land to the house is passable only in a four-wheel drive vehicle over a dirt and rock road. As you go up the cliff there are many stone outcropping and deep gorges.

On top of the hill is an impressive view. To the north is a panoramic view of the bottom land, Eighteen Mile Island, and twelve miles of Kentucky and Indiana shore lines. This view is from the front lawn of the manor house. To the south is the upland portion of the farm. All 669 acres of the upland property is undulating farm land running in a southeasterly direction, and rising to a height that is 90 feet higher than the area of the house. The highest point of the property is 790 feet above sea level. The property is somewhat terraced from the Ohio to the highest point near the southeast part of the farm. On the northern border of the property the Ohio is 430 feet above sea level, that is followed, going south, by the second bottom land that is 450 feet above sea level, still going south up the cliff the house stands at 700 feet, and still further to the southeast the land reaches a height of 790 feet.

"Clifton", the manor house, is a red brick, home that was built in three sections at three different times. It is "L" shaped with the southern portion of the "L" being the first part completed around 1817. This section of the home has a foundation of broken stone, and exterior walls of brick. Next, going north, is the second part of the back "L" that was completed in 1824 with the same stone foundation as the original portion and the same clay used in firing the bricks. Both of these sections are two story sections with shingled roofs.

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Name of property: Clifton
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The final, and front portion of the house, completed in 1840, faces north overlooking the river. This final section of the house has a foundation of cut stone, but is the same stone, quarried from the same site as the previous sections. With walls of brick this section is much larger than the first two, and has ten rooms, and spacious halls on the first and second floor. This newer section is fifty-four feet by forty-four feet making the entire house a little over 5,486 sq. feet. At the present time the manor house is in good condition. The current owners are in the process of restoring the house to preserve its historical significance. For this task they have contracted the skills of professionals in the field of historic restoration.

It is reported that Thomas T. Barbour was a civil engineer and was the architect and builder of the manor house. This information is reported in Lutien Rule's "Oldham County History" as published in the Oldham Era, but in fact, it is doubtful that Thomas Barbour was an engineer, or that he designed this home. From information gathered about Thomas Barbour's life there is little reason to think he was any more than a good farmer and a well-liked citizen of the area.

Looking east, out the side door of the original house, is a pond created by a damming of the spring water from the stone springhouse just to the southeast. This spring house, built at the same time as the first portion of the main house, has walls of broken stone from the same quarry as the foundation of the house, and has a tin roof. This structure is in better than average condition.

In front of the springhouse is a concrete cistern constructed in the late 1920s or early 1930s. This cistern is in fair condition and was used to furnish water to the people in the main house.

Between the house and the springhouse, on the edge of the pond, there is another small structure with walls of stone. This is the pumphouse. This stone structure, with a tin roof, had a pump added in the late 1930s, and is in good condition.

To the east, across the pond, under a spreading, old elm tree is the cemetery. There is only one grave stone left in this small burial plot, but there is evidence of several other graves. At the present time we can only identify four or five people that are interred in this plot. Finding the location of the individual graves is almost an impossible task.

Directly behind the manor house is a carriage house that is in good condition. This structure has walls of wood and now has a concrete floor. The foundation is stone and the roof is of composition shingles. This structure was built in the late 1880s and has accommodations for horses, two carriages and an old attic or loft for the storage of hay.

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Name of property: Clifton
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This neat, little, white structure was converted in the early 1920s to accommodate the family auto. The area for the horses has been converted to a storage room.

Directly across the driveway from the carriage house is the main cattle barn and lot. While the upper portion of this structure was destroyed by fire in the January 1864 raid on the property by Confederate guerrillas the foundation remains. This stone foundation was laid in 1816 and the present barn was rebuilt some time between 1865 and 1867. The siding is wood and the roof is tin. Cattle feeding troughs still adorn one side of the barn interior. The western portion of this structure was added in the 1920s with wood walls, concrete floor and a tin roof.

There are two wooden, open front, equipment sheds near the cattle barn and lot. One of the sheds is directly east, the other northeast of the cattle barn. Both of these structures are about fifty feet from the northeast corner of the barn.

Just southeast, some one hundred and fifty yards, from the barn is a neat little, white cottage used as a tenant house. This house is constructed of wood and composition siding and was built in the early to mid 1950s.

In the 1960s the Eggers installed a swimming pool to the west side of, and a little behind, the main house. Accompanying the pool is a log bath house, constructed of sawmill bark slabs. This area was developed in the late 1960s.

This domestic area, on top of the hill, is compact and, even today, lends itself well to the operation of the farm. All of the buildings and structures are in good shape, and are well maintained.

About five hundred feet from the main house, on a dirt service road, some twenty feet off of the main driveway, is the site of the quarry that provided the stone for the foundations of the main house, and the cattle barn. This site also provided the stone for the springhouse. This formation of saluda dolomite protrudes from the hill side, and you can still see the chisel marks on the remaining stone where the blocks were cut away by the masons.

From the back of the domestic complex area you see the greatest portion of the farm land. Grassy knobs undulate south and southeast to the southern border of the farm land. This area is dryer and windier than the bottom land, but still contains good grazing areas, and fields for crops. In the horse pasture, to the southeast, is a small pond. This pond area was

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the site of the digging of the heavy red clay that was used in the firing of the bricks for the house. Sometime after the clay was removed a dam was built and the pond created.

Just south of the horse pasture is a great expanse of pasture land. This pasture is now inhabited by the American Bison now being raised on the farm. Soon it will be reseeded with native grasses in an effort to return the land to its original ecological balance.

In this area the pasture land is on the eastern side of the entrance road, and to the West is a field planted in oats. In the distance, to the south, at the entrance to the property, stand three more buildings. From this entrance to the river is 6,600 feet, and the grounds stand on the highest point on the farm, 790 feet above sea level.

The front tenant house was constructed in two sections, at two different times. The back section was built around 1840, and is a one floor wood structure of three rooms on a stone foundation. The front part of the house exhibits late Victorian styling with a large bay window. It also sits on a stone foundation with white walls of clapboard. This front two-story section was completed between 1895 and 1900. This structure is in good condition and is in the process of being improved by restoration experts.

Directly behind the tenant house is a small storage shed. This structure is in very poor condition and has exterior wall of roofing paper, and sits on concrete footings. It was probably built in the late 1950s or early 1960s.

To the west, and across the entrance road is the buffalo barn and corral. This barn structure is wooden and was completed in 1996. It has a dirt floor, a concrete foundation and tin roof.

The property has a great deal of wooded pasture. Of the 1019 acres that make up the farm 383 acres are wooded. This wooded area is teeming with wild life, and wild flowers. Deer, coyote, opossum, fox, and raccoon are in evidence in of the forested areas. Near the small streams and many springs in the lower land, evidence of beaver abound. Birds on the bottom land include egrets, wood ducks, and Canadian geese. Near the ponds and in the woods of the upland area are king fishers, red wing black birds, blue heron, and wild turkey. Lady slippers, Dutchman's-britches, penny royal and hepatica are a few of the wild flowers that grow in abundance on the hill side and in the bottoms. These wooded areas are populated with red cedar, white and red oak, sweet gum, sycamore, red and sugar maple, wild cherry, walnut, willow, and tulip poplar of the more prominent trees. The understory includes red bud, dogwood, iron wood, and paw paw.

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Building #1 Contributing

Front Tenant House

This building was constructed in two phases. The back section was built around 1840. The front portion of the structure is Victorian, and seems to have been completed between 1895 and 1900.

Building #2 Non-Contributing

Storage Shed

Located behind the front tenant house this small structure is set on poles and has wood exterior walls, covered with roofing paper, and a tin roof. Built in the mid to late 1950s. It is in very poor condition.

Building #3 Non-Contributing

Buffalo Barn and Corral

This is a new structure with a concrete foundation and wood exterior walls. The corral is wooden rail. Metal chutes for working on the buffaloes extend from the inside of the barn to the corral.

Building #4 Non-Contributing

Equipment Shed

Built in the 1980s this open-face shed is built on creosote posts with corrugated siding, and a tin roof. This structure is in very good condition.

Building #5 Non-Contributing

Equipment Shed

This structure is the same as Building #4.

Building #6 Contributing

Tobacco Barn

With vertical wood walls, this structure is footed on concrete blocks. It is double story with wooden ventilation shutters and a tin roof. Built in the late 1930s. It is in fair to good condition.

Building #7 Non-Contributing

Tenant House

Concrete block foundation, wooden siding and shingled roof built in the 1980's

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Building #8 Contributing

Cattle Barn and Lot

This building, as it now stands, was built on the broken stone foundation of the original barn constructed prior to 1817. The original barn was destroyed by fire during the Confederate raids of 1864. The present structure was rebuilt on the original foundation around 1867 and has exterior walls of vertical wood construction. There is a silo and a grain storage bin on the back of this barn. They were constructed some time in the late 1920s or early 1930s, and are of metal construction.

Building #9 Contributing

Carriage House

This carriage house dates back to the late 1890s with improvements made in the 1920s for the convenience of the automobile. It is on a concrete foundation, and has exterior walls of clapboard. It has a tin roof, and is in good condition.

Building #10 Non-Contributing

Pool House and Swimming Pool

The pool is an in-ground concrete pool that is in very poor condition. The pool house is imitation log set within concrete, with a shingle roof. This structure is in very poor condition.

Building #11 Contributing

Main House

This structure was constructed in three parts. The first part (In the very back of the house) was built between 1813 and 1817. The second portion was added about 1827 with the large front part of the manor house being completed in 1840. The stone for the foundation was quarried on the property, and the clay was also dug from the property. All of the bricks were fired by on-site workers. At the present time it has a shingled roof.

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Building #12 Contributing

Stone Springhouse

This structure is solid stone. The stone is the same as that used in the foundation of the main house and seems to be laid by the same craftsman who did the foundation of the original portion of the main house. It has a tin roof and is in better than average condition. It was constructed between 1813 and 1817, and is one of the original buildings.

Building # 13 Contributing

Live Stock Barn (Hay Barn)

This barn seems to have been damaged by a flood and refurbished some time in the late 1930s. Its original construction was sometime between 1880 and 1885. It is a pole structure with locust poles, that have been reinforced through the years, set on mud sills. This barn is in average condition.

Building #14 Non Contributing

Hay barn

Built in the 1950s, this structure has creosote posts set on concrete footings. It has a corrugated roof and exterior walls of wood and corrugated metal. At the present time it is in poor condition.

Building #15 Contributing

Cottage (Camp)

This structure was originally a one room camp used during the summer as living quarters for Bert Gottbrath as he farmed the lower land and bottoms along the Ohio River. The original portion was built in the late 1920s. This portion has a stone foundation with exterior walls of clapboard, and a tin roof. It was added to at a later date. At the present time this cottage is in very poor condition.

Building #16 Contributing Structure Hog Lot and Corn Crib

This area was used to fatten the hogs before shipment to market. This area was developed in the early 1900s and added to in the early 1940s. The lower section, to the east, is wood construction with

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a tin roof. The taller section is built on a concrete floor, portions of it are raised. the exterior walls are of wood, except for the crib itself which is wood slates and screen. The roof in this section is also tin.

Building # 17 Non-Contributing

Hidden Valley Barn

This barn is set on poles, and has wooden exterior walls with a tin roof. It was built in the late 1950s or early 1960s. It is in very bad shape.

Site #18 Contributing

Stone Quarry

This area is the site of the stone quarry. All of the stone for the original foundations and springhouse came from this quarry area.

Site #19 Contributing Site

Clay Dig

This is the site that yielded the heavy red clay for the bricks used in the main house. At a later date one of the owners converted the actual digging site to a pond.

Site #20 Contributing Site

Gottbrath Landing

This site was developed in the later part of the nineteenth century by the Jacobs. The concrete was added in the 1920s by the Gottbraths. The concrete remains and the remnants of a concrete piling is evident to the east of the landing.

Structure #21 Contributing

Cistern

Constructed from pored concrete in the 1930s. It furnished water to the house.

Because of the present flood, it is impossible to investigate the property and structures on Eighteen Mile Island. There are some four or five structures on the Island. The well and the pumphouse are still there, and in working order. They were built in 1957 and 1958. The other buildings, which are now in disarray, were constructed no later than 1930.

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Woodland Farm meets National Register Criterion A, and is significant within the historical context of "Agriculture in Oldham County 1813-1957." It is a productive farm growing, at various times, all of the products produced on other farms in the county. When compared with the other farms in Oldham County through the years, Clifton always remained in the top 6% of all Oldham County farms in size and value. For over one hundred forty years (1813 to 1957) this land was the primary subsistence of the various owners, and their families. Located in what is known as the Knob Country its soil is conducive to the production of cattle, hogs and sheep, as well as fine crops of cereal, fruits and garden vegetables. Because of the property's location, on the Ohio River, the problem of transportation, encountered by many area farms, is greatly reduced. Also, much of the significance of this farm property lies in the heavy contributions of its owners as leaders in the scientific study and practice of animal husbandry and soil tillage.

Research

All of the research on the property was designed to illustrate how Woodland farm was, over the years studied, one of the top producing farms in Oldham County. U. S. Census, The Kentucky Agricultural Census, and Property Tax records were essential in establishing contrasts between the farm and other farms in the county. These records were found at the Kentucky Historical Society, Kentucky State Archives, Jefferson County Court House, Oldham County Court House and Oldham County Historical Society. Various reports taken from the Bureau of Agriculture, articles from the Louisville Courier, Louisville Journal, the Oldham Era, Thomas Clark's Kentucky: Land of Contrast, files from the Manuscript Department of the Filson Club, and information in the Kentucky Room at the Louisville Free Public Library were used. Personal interviews with individuals who were close to the farm, and in one case, a person who had been born on the property in 1911, and was one of the owners when the property was sold in 1956 related many interesting facts.

Overview of Oldham County Environs and Agriculture

Through the years Oldham County's economy has depended upon agriculture. As with most of Kentucky's early settlers, those who immigrated to the Oldham County area brought with them their milk cow and the self-sufficient hog. In the early years the area farmer grew a limited number of crops, mostly corn, wheat, hemp and some hay, with a few horses, hogs and cattle in the fields. Because of the proximity to Louisville, Oldham County farmers began to change their tillage system to suit the market needs of the near by populated area. Many of the farmers began garden farming, fruit-raising, poultry-raising

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and producing live stock. By the early 1850s, butter, milk, cheese, poultry, fruits and vegetables were shipped daily to the city. Beef cattle, hogs, sheep, and wool were periodically shipped to agents in Louisville for sale.

During the first part of the of the 1900's, dairy products became the leading farm commodities produced in the county. Jefferson County was a ready market for milk, butter, eggs and other dairy products. The rearing of beef cattle and hogs remained constant throughout the twentieth century, while the dairy farming slacked off in the last quarter of the century.

In recent years more and more industry has moved into Oldham County, and in the 1970's "white flight" prompted the growth of residential homes in the area. Much of the farmland has given way to homes for those people who work in Jefferson County. By 1980, 64% of the employable population of the county had jobs elsewhere. For the past thirty years there has been great growth in the number of thoroughbred horse farms in the county. This trend is likely to grow with the successful Hermitage Breeding operation, which commenced in 1937.

Clifton (Woodland Farm) 1813 to 1855

On or about the year 1813, Thomas T. Barbour and his wife began farming the property that was to become known as Clifton. It consisted of 700 acres of new land, down the Ohio River from Eighteen Mile Creek, to Dunbar Hollow. At that time the property was part of Jefferson County. The land was unimproved and had to be cleared to prepare it for cultivation.

From family history we know that in 1817 the Barbours had constructed several farm buildings and a small two story brick home that still stands as part of the primary residence. At the time, tax records from 1817 indicate the property was producing a small number cattle and hogs, along with some corn and cereals. In 1823 Oldham County was formed, and the farm was included in the new county. Tax rolls for 1824 indicate that the land had increased by a few acres. The land was producing a good harvest, and the number of cattle and hogs had increased. In less than ten years the value of the farm, according to Oldham County Tax Rolls, had increased by \$7,000. It was during this period that the Barbours added a small two story addition to their house.

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The following chart is derived from the from the Tax Rolls for 1833. Average farm is the average of three farms of like size in the area of Clifton. All of the farms are Ohio River Property, and were chosen because they were in the same precinct as the Clifton property. These three farms represent a little over 16% of the eighteen farms in the selected area, and are comparable in size to Clifton.

	Acreage	Total Slaves	Horses	Value
Clifton	600	13	8	\$10,000
Average	617	8	8	7,125

By 1840 the Tax Rolls show that Barbour had a total of 1472 acres. This is as large as Clifton would ever be, and there were 13 slaves of working age on the property. Wheat and rye had been added to the field crops, along with the usual corn and hay. The number of cattle and hogs had increased substantially. The farm was now valued over \$21,000. Over the years the total amount of land had increased by 872 acres, and the number products, livestock, and slaves had increased, but these things alone do not account for the large increase in value for the time between 1833 and 1840. A great deal of the increase was due to the fact that the Barbours had completed a fourteen room addition to the farm house.

Sitting atop a steep hillside, the manor house commands a magnificent view of the Ohio River. All of Eighteen Mile Island is included in the panoramic twelve miles of riverfront visible from the front yard. A small spring house, constructed of stone between 1813 and 1817, sits on the placid pond just off the kitchen. In the same view, under a large spreading elm tree, standing on a small knoll, you see the rail fence that encompasses a small cemetery.

Two years later, in 1842, Thomas Barbour began giving parcels of land to his children and his wife. Over the next five years he gave 556 acres of the farm to his family.

While the entire country suffered from a financial setback that began in 1848, the farm at Clifton continued to produce a profit. The price for farm products fell when the heightened demand dropped at the end of the Mexican War. Farm loans were being called in because the Bank of the United States would no longer accept script from the independent state banks. Many farmers had depended on the state banks to finance their crops. This was no longer possible, so many of the smaller farms went under. While, Clifton continued to run profitably, Thomas Barbour found it hard to manage his personal

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finances. In effect, Barbour was a better than average farm manager, but was a poor manager of his household and personal affairs.

Barbour's personal finances decayed to the point that in 1848, his farm and personal property were put into a trust that was to be managed by his son William in order to safeguard the farm from his many creditors. Despite this, just two years later, Clifton was still a viable farm doing better than most of the 600 farms in the county. The Agricultural Census of 1850 ranks Clifton in the top 1.6% in size and in the top 1% in value when compared with the total number of farms in the county.

In 1850 the trustee was changed from William Barbour, Thomas' son, to J. S. Crutchfield, acting for him. Over the next four years under Crutchfield's extraordinary management, the farm prospered. These years reflect the following taxable values:

Year	Farm Value	Acreage
1850	\$23,457	750
1852	\$36,270	750
1854	\$47,050	750

During this time, 1850-1854, the value of farm land in the county remained relatively stable. Mr. Crutchfield was known as an excellent farm manager and his expertise proved itself in the management of the Barbour trust.

The Jacob Years 1855 TO 1899

Col. Richard T. Jacob purchased the farm at Clifton in 1855. By this time the farm had been reduced to 725 acres. Prior to the purchase, all of the livestock and personal property had been sold and crops reduced to a minimum, in order to satisfy Barbour's creditors.

Jacob bought only the 725 acre farm and the buildings. In effect, the Jacobs started with only a shell of a farm in 1855. However, through hard work and thoughtful planning, along with good land, they earned great dividends. The Agriculture Census of 1860 gives us some understanding of Jacob's abilities and determination. In the five years between 1855 and 1860, the census indicates that there had been a great deal of growth in farm production and live stock at Clifton.

From the low point at the time of purchase, Jacob, in a short five years had rebuilt so that it remained in the top 3% in size and top 4% in value when compared with all of the farms in Oldham County. At the time of the 1860 census there were only twenty-one farms in

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the county with a greater value. It is significant to note that, while all of the County's farms were rebounding from the setback of the 1840's, Jacob had started with only land and buildings, yet he still managed to bring the farm back to viability.

Jacob's success can be seen from the production listed in the 1860 Ag Census showing 10 horses, 1 mule, 7 milk cows, 6 working oxen, 11 other cattle, 60 sheep, and 15 hogs. As for crops, the census shows 400 bushels of wheat, 1,500 bushels of corn, 100 pounds of wool, 100 bushels of Irish potatoes, 50 bushels of sweet potatoes, 1,250 pounds of butter, 60 tons of hay, and 10 bushels of grass seed.

In the seven year period from 1859 until 1865 Jacob spent a great deal of time away from the farm. In 1859 he was elected to the State House of Representatives. As a leader in this august body he was a leader in the fight to keep Kentucky neutral as the War of Rebellion grew closer. After the Civil War began, Jacob joined the Federal Forces in 1862, and remained in the service until November, 1863, when he was elected Lt. Governor of the Commonwealth. During his stint in the service, Jacob was wounded in the Battle of Perryville. That injury would give him some problems in the future.

In January 1864, while the Jacob family was in Frankfort, Confederate guerrillas raided Clifton and burned all the farm buildings except the main house and the stone springhouse. The raiders were never apprehended. Most of the buildings were rebuilt on their original foundation by 1867.

Because of time spent on political business and in the service it was not until the end of 1865 that Jacob was able to concentrate his efforts on the duties of farming. Also, this period of time saw the enactment of the 13th amendment that freed the slaves and put an end to the cheap labor they provided. Because of this loss, Kentucky's farmers would find it necessary to rethink many of their methods of farming and labor.

The last five years of the 1860's would mark a drastic change in the pattern of Kentucky agriculture, its future and its procedures in Oldham County, as well as in the entire Commonwealth of Kentucky. Many farms, particularly the larger ones, found it necessary to sell off land in order to continue on a profitable basis. For this reason, the Agricultural Census of 1870 showed a great increase in the number of smaller farms in Oldham County.

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It was during this period of time that Clifton was reduced to 325 acres. Surprisingly, though, the production of field crops increased! It might be noted that this is the first time tobacco and orchard products were listed as crops on the property.

	1860	Unit	1870
Corn	1,500	bushels	8,500
Oats	1,000	bushe	-----
Wheat	-----	bushels	1,000
Tobacco	-----	pounds	2,000
Orchard	-----	value	\$300
Grass seed	10	bushels	20
Irish Potatoes	100	bushels	100
Molasses	-----	gallons	1,600
Sweet Potatoes	50	bushels	20

(Increases are printed in **bold** numbers)

Livestock population at Clifton remained about the same over this ten year period, but it should be noted that working oxen were reduced from five to two, and the value of farm implements dropped from \$500 to \$200. These numbers can suggest that the freeing of the slaves drove up labor costs, which limited farmers in the number of plows and teams they put in the fields. By the time of the 1870 Ag Census the number of farms in Oldham County had increased to 856 from the 520 listed in the 1860 Census. This represents a growth of 65% in the number of Oldham County farms in this ten year period. Because the new farms were created from land sold off by the large to medium farms they were smaller, and less productive. The older, larger farms needed the cash from the property sale to compensate for the loss of their slaves and the cheap labor the slaves provided. The cash was needed to finance the planting and harvesting of their crops. Still, Clifton remained in the top 6% in both size and value when compared to all farms in the county during this time.

At Clifton, Jacob vigorously pursued the study of land use and animal husbandry. It was noted in the 1878 report of the Bureau of Agriculture that Jacob had participated in several experiments in the area of animal husbandry. One of the examples given was the feeding of stone coal cinders to the hogs for the prevention of hog cholera. It was also noted, "... that Jacob, and others, are doing much to elevate the science of agriculture and

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ennoble the profession of soil-tillage through the experiments made by themselves and their Granges."

By the time of the 1880 Agriculture Census, Jacob had put into practice some of what he had learned from these experiments. In field crops the farm had produced only 30 tons of hay, 1,250 bushels of corn, 34 bushels of wheat, 75 bushels of Irish potatoes, and 1,000 bushels of orchard grass seed. Also, the property had produced 850 pounds of butter, and 34 fleeces (equal to 150 lb. of wool). This downward movement in the field was countered by an even greater increase in the number of farm animals on the farm.

	1870	1880
All Cattle	20	76*
Hogs over six months	15	25
Sheep	0	68
Chickens	0	62

*8 milk cows and 68 pure bred cattle.

Bold indicates increases in that area.

From these figures it can be concluded that Jacob had moved into a less labor intensive area of farming. Switching from raw crops to livestock as a bases for farm production, Jacob's adequate acreage allowed grazing to accomplish the "work" of animal growth.

These figures, when compared to other farms in the county, demonstrate that Jacobs had a valuable farm. In acreage, though small, it remained in the top 4.6% of all Oldham County farms, and in value it was in the top 5.6%.

After 1880, the only records available with raw agricultural data are the Personal Property Tax Rolls, most of which are missing from the Oldham County Court House, and the Oldham County Historical Society. From these fragmented records, and information gained through newspapers and private papers, it is obvious that Jacob's farm prospered through the 1880's. In 1885 the farm had 185 sheep, 30 head of pure bred cattle, and 25 hogs. At this time there were also 12 horses on the property.

In his youth, Richard T. Jacob had suffered from bad health, and during the Civil War he had been badly wounded. By the end of the 1880s it became very difficult for him to run the farm, in 1891, he moved to Louisville. For the next eight years there was very little done on the property, and in 1899 he sold the property to Frank Gottbrath.

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The Gottbrath Place (1899 to 1956)

Frank Gottbrath's father had come from Germany and his son had grown up dreaming of owning a purebred stock farm. Soon the Gottbrath Stock Farm at Clifton became a showplace for the finest purebred Hereford cattle, Poland-China hogs, and Southdown Sheep in the area. Some of the stock and produce were shipped from Gottbrath Landing, located on the property just 3/4 of a mile down river from Eighteen Mile Creek, to markets in Louisville and further down river. Other purebred stock was sold at auctions and sales held by the Gottbraths on the farm. These affairs were well attended by people who were interested in high quality livestock to use in their breeding herds. Many of those attending the affairs traveled from as far away as Louisville, Frankfort, and Lexington.

By 1903, the Gottbraths bred and sold only purebred stock. Frank Gottbrath had purchased the land along the Ohio River, below the house. This purchase was one of the reasons the field crops increased dramatically. Just seven years later, in 1910, there were 376 head of purebred cattle, sheep, and hogs on the farm. In field crops the land had produced 100 tons of hay, 3,000 bushels of corn, 132 bushels of wheat, 110 bushels of oats, and 485 bushels of grass seed. At this time the total farm was valued a \$7,220. Ten years later the value of the farm had doubled, to a total of \$14,890.

With the end of World War I farm land values dropped dramatically, and would not recover in the face of the Great Depression until the end of World War II. This downswing in farm land values affected not only Oldham County, but Kentucky and the entire nation. Yet, from the available tax records, the farm at Clifton more than managed to hold its own when compared to the other farms in the county, and Kentucky.

For the next eight years the tax value of the farm fluctuated between \$16,960 in 1930 to \$13,060 in 1938. During these troubled years the farm remained strong in producing high quality, purebred stock. WW II heightened demand for farm products. Because of this demand, not only did Clifton prosper, but almost every farm in the country did. Again, just a few years later, the Korean Conflict (1950 to 1953) renewed demand for farm products. Despite these prosperous years, it was not until after the Korean Conflict that the price of farm land returned to a value equal to that prior to 1919.

The Eggers Put it all Together (1956 to 1996)

Early in 1956, George and Helen Egger of Louisville purchased the lower land along the Ohio River from Bert Gottbrath. Soon thereafter the Eggers proceeded to purchase other

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parcels of land that, at one time, had been part of the Clifton property, and sold off over the preceding years. These purchases included the land out to Greenhaven Road, and all of Eighteen Mile Island. These acquisitions, all made before the end of 1956, restored the acreage of the farm close to the acreage listed on the 1840 Property Tax Rolls.

Through the years Eighteen Mile Island had produced enormous crops of corn, and the Eggers continued this production before they started running cattle on the island.

In 1964, the Eggers leased the down river portion of the island to the OhioRiver-Oldham Water District for the drilling of water wells into the aquifer under the Ohio River. These wells produced the first public water furnished to residents of the county, and remained the only source of public water for the district until 1978, when new wells were drilled at Westport. Today the wells and pumps remain on the island as a backup to the new wells.

Early in 1996 the farm property was purchased by Laura Lee Brown and Steve Wilson. Despite the development of residential property in Oldham County, and the great potential this land holds if it were developed, the new owners are determined to retain the farming characteristics of the property, Farm use of the property is being maintained by the raising of American buffalo. This new use is compatible with idea that the farm and its place in the history of Kentucky and Oldham County agriculture will be preserved. They are in the process of rehabilitating the original farm dwelling to its historic grandeur. Soon they plan to reestablishing native grasses for the buffalo to graze on.

By the work being done on the farm, the field animals and crops it is apparent the owners are interested in a utilitarian type of farming that is in harmony with the agrarian mode of the past history of the farm property..

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Jefferson County Property Tax Records Courthouse and State Archives	Jefferson County
Oldham County Property Tax Records Courthouse, State Archives, and Oldham County Historical Society	Oldham County
United States Agricultural Census	Kentucky State Archives
U. S. Census Society, State Archives, And Louisville Free Public Library	Kentucky Historical
Bureau of Agriculture Reports	Kentucky State Archives
Articles from the Louisville Courier Library	Louisville Free Public
Articles from the Louisville Journal Library	Louisville Free Public
Personal papers of the owners (Manuscript Department)	Filson Club
Clark, Thomas D. <u>KENTUCKY Land of Contrast</u> , Harper & Row 1968	
Area Articles and Histories Historical Society	Oldham County

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Verbal Justification

The property proposed for listing includes 1,019 acres. All of the property is in Oldham County, Kentucky, designated on the Oldham County Property Valuation Assessor Map as Parcels number 18-10, 19-1, 19-2, 19-3, and 19-13. The Oldham County PVA office does not use Map numbers.

Boundary Justification

The proposed listing comes close, but does not include all the acreage owned by Thomas T. Barbour as indicated by the 1840 Property Tax Records of Oldham County. This area has been farmed for over one hundred fifty years and within the boundaries there are historic homes, farm buildings, sights, and acreage. All of these buildings sites and acreage, when combined with the pattern of history created by the various owners, form a significant resource in the history of agriculture in Oldham County and the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 97000874

Date Listed: 8/18/97

Clifton Oldham KY
Property Name: County: State:

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.

Patricia Andrus
Signature of the Keeper

9/5/97
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

This SLR makes a technical correction to the form. In section 8 of the form, the Significant Dates section includes a date (1956) which is outside of the defined Period of Significance. This date is being deleted, because all Significant Dates must fall within the defined Period of Significance.

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

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The accompanying photographs were taken by Jack Harrison on
April 2, 1997.
Original negatives are at Woodland Farm, LLC, 4801 Greenhaven
Lane, Goshen, KY. 40026 Phone (502) 228-1208

The above information applies to all of the photographs included
in this presentation.