

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED APR 9 1982
DATE ENTERED

**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 Bullock-Clifton House

AND/OR COMMON

Yunker House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1824 Rosedale Ave.

NA NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Louisville

NA VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

3 & 4

STATE

Kentucky

CODE

021

COUNTY

Jefferson

CODE

111

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

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

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- NA **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

Kenneth and Patricia Hill

STREET & NUMBER

1824 Rosedale Ave.

CITY, TOWN

Louisville

NA

VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Jefferson County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

6th & Jefferson Sts.

CITY, TOWN

Louisville

STATE

Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Kentucky Historic Resources Inventory

Has this site been determined
eligible? yes no

DATE

1980

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Kentucky Heritage Commission

CITY, TOWN

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Bullock-Clifton House is located in the eastern section of Louisville in the Deer Park neighborhood. It was, until about 1920, the manor house for the surrounding thirty acres. At that time, the neighborhood was subdivided. The neighborhood consists of both brick and frame residences generally of bungalow design.

The Bullock-Clifton House was built in two sections. The rear section, 1834, was a Federal residence with a central hall-parlor plan, facing northwardly. In 1873 the eastern half of the Federal residence was removed and the Italianate/Eastlake style residence was attached facing eastwardly.

The front section of the house is two-and-one-half stories in height. A bulbous octagonal tower in the center of the facade rises to a cupola on the fourth level, with paired arched windows on four sides and single blind arches on the alternate four sides. The third level of the tower, which adjoins the attic, has a wide octagonal cornice supported by paired brackets and lined with carved panels. Arched windows are located on the north and east sides only. The second floor level of the tower consists of paired windows with eared frames and arch motifs in the lintel. The first floor level of the tower is the main entrance to the house. The arched entry is recessed through another arched opening. A large door hood is supported by grand brackets with pendills. The south facade bay has a large front gable with a wide bargeboard pierced with decorative filigree. Square paired windows are tucked under the bargeboard at the attic level. On the second floor is a pair of windows with a single pedimental hood and carved panel. The first floor contains a rectangular bay window with a flat bracketed hood and carved panels. The northern facade bay has a smaller gable with identical bargeboard and a pair of windows on the second floor with a diamond-shaped carved panel between. The first floor of the north side of the facade contains two windows and a porch. There is currently no access to this porch from the recessed entryway, and no evidence that there ever was access. The north side of the house has the same treatment as the south facade bay, except with a three-sided bay window instead of a rectangular bay window on the first floor. The southern side of the house has a five-sided bay window and a gable with a bargeboard identical to the others.

The rear Federal style section of the house was severed when the front section was added, leaving the central hall and two rooms on each floor. What remains on the exterior is three bays on both the north and south sides and two bays on the rear. (See photo 4) The windows have simple frames. The size of the windows on the rear section match those on the front section. They are inappropriate for the Federal style, which indicates that they were elongated at the time the front section was added. The two doors on the rear of the building were also added in 1873. They were originally windows. On the north side of the house is the original entrance to the Federal residence, closed in and roofed, probably in 1873 with the other alterations. It was a recessed entry, similar to the entry of the Snow House, Chaplin, Connecticut, which dates 1822. (See photo 13) With the exception of the Palladian window, the Snow House very closely resembles the original Bullock House.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1834 / 1873 BUILDER/ARCHITECT unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Bullock-Clifton House, located in the eastern section of Louisville, is one of the most interesting variations of the Italianate style in the city, with fine craftsmanship displayed in the Eastlake ornamental trim. In addition, the rear section a federal style structure, is the oldest known frame residence in the city, built in 1834. William Bullock, the original owner of the 1834 residence, was a distinguished Kentucky statesman, judge, orator and philanthropist. He established the common school system in Kentucky, was responsible for improved conditions in social institutions, and founded the Kentucky School for the Blind.

William Bullock was the son of the Hon. Edmund Bullock, a prominent judge in Lexington, Kentucky. Educated at Transylvania University in Lexington, William Bullock was noted for his speaking ability even before his graduation in 1824. While a student, Bullock was chosen to speak at a welcome home ceremony for Henry Clay. Nearly fifty years later, he gave another speech upon the placement of the statue of Henry Clay in the Jefferson County Courthouse rotunda. His oration on that occasion was his most famous.

Bullock is important to Kentucky history in many areas. He was elected to the Kentucky Legislature in 1838, 1840 and 1841. While serving as a member of the legislature, Bullock introduced the bill which led to the establishment of the common school system in Kentucky. Throughout his career as lawyer and Fifth District judge, Bullock was a public school system advocate and promoter. He was also responsible for seeing that institutions for the insane and institutions for indigent women were upgraded.

Bullock's crowning glory during his legislative career was his successful lobbying to procure an endowment from the state for an institution for the blind. The first state appropriation was set forth in 1841. The result of Bullock's work, the Kentucky School for the Blind, is still in operation today and is praised as one of the finest institutions of its kind in the nation. Bullock worked closely with the school his entire life. He was an original trustee and served as the second president of the Board of Directors of the school. He was also the first president of the American Printinghouse for the Blind which is still in operation today.¹

Bullock moved to Louisville in 1828 and set up his law practice. In 1834 he purchased 79 acres on the Bardstown Pike from William Pope, a land magnate in that section of the county. It was at this time that construction of the Federal residence was begun. The Bullock residence was a double pile, central hall-parlor plan, two stories in height with a hip roof. The fenestration consisted of five windows across the second floor and a central recessed entrance with two windows on either side. Each side of the house had two windows on each floor. The house closely resembled the Snow House, Chaplin, Connecticut, 1822 (See photo 13).² This is the oldest known frame residence remaining in Louisville.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

UTM NOT VERIFIED
ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

see continuation sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Louisville East

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	6	6	1	3	4	4	5	4	2	3	1	2	7	0
ZONE	EASTING													

B

ZONE	EASTING													

C

ZONE	EASTING													

D

ZONE	EASTING													

E

ZONE	EASTING													

F

ZONE	EASTING													

G

ZONE	EASTING													

H

ZONE	EASTING													

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Block 76K, Lot 28. The lot includes ~~of~~ other buildings and is approximately .7 acres.

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 M. A. Allgeier, Researcher

ORGANIZATION Louisville Landmarks Commission

DATE 1/30/81

STREET & NUMBER 727 W. Main St.

TELEPHONE 502-587-3501

CITY OR TOWN Louisville

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

Mary Coonan Opeil

TITLE

Mary Coonan Opeil, State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

3/31/82

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Entered in the National Register

DATE

5/6/82

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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Bullock-Clifton House
1824 Rosedale Ave./ Louisville, Kentucky

CONTINUATION SHEET

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The interior of the front section of the house is designed in a central hall - parlor plan. The ceilings are all fourteen feet high. The hallway has parquet floors and Lincrusta-Walton wainscoting. The formal parlor is to the right of the hall and has a lovely bay window and large marble fireplace with a central cartouche and geometric panels. This fireplace has a large gilded mirror above, which oral tradition has said comes from the Galt House in Louisville. The parlor to the left of the hall has a matching fireplace, as do both the library and dining room. The dining room bay window provides a large raised nook surrounded by five full length windows. The windows and doors on the first floor all have wide rolled frames, and all baseboards are approximately fourteen inches wide. On the second floor, the window and door frames are the same as on the first floor, but not as wide. The baseboards on the second floor are approximately ten inches wide. All windows on both floors are very tall, extending down to the baseboard.

The second floor of the front section of the house has the same floor plan as the first, with a large dressing room opening off of the master bedroom over the first floor entrance. All fireplaces are of the same design as those on the first floor, but are cast iron instead of marble.

The rear section of the house has approximately ten foot ceilings. The hall of the old section abuts the back wall of the newer section (see plan 1), with a door on the first floor leading from the central hall of the front section to the central hall of the rear section, meeting at a perpendicular. A utility room now occupies the area which was originally the recessed entry to the original house, on the north side of the building. At the opposite end of the hall, where a bath has been installed, was originally the location of the staircase. At the time of construction of the front section, this staircase was removed and another was built between the two remaining rooms on the first floor. It is a very narrow and steep stairway. Doors lead from both of these rooms to the outside. These were originally windows and were converted to doors at the same time. The second floor of the rear section is identical to the first floor with one exception. The room above the original recessed entry is smaller than the room below. It does not project beyond the facade as does the room on the first floor. There are two doors which lead from the old to the new section on the second floor. One door enters the stair landing of the new section from the hall of the old section. Another, from the hall of the old section to the south bedroom of the new section, requires several steps due to differences in ceiling heights of the two sections.

The door and window frames in the old section of the house are simple, some with modest cornices. The floors throughout both sections are wide pine planks, with the exception of the oak parquet floor in the entry hall of the front section.

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There were several outbuildings before the subdivision of the estate in 1920. The only remaining structure is an underground ice house, recently discovered by the current owners. It is a brick domed room with a circular opening in the top of the dome and is about twelve feet in diameter. The ice house probably had a frame structure above ground, over the dome. The current owners, after unearthing the ice house, sealed it back up and recovered it with earth. They plan to restore it in the future.

The lot is irregularly shaped, approximately 175' x 90'. The house sits at a slight diagonal on a treed lot, which is on the corner of Rosedale Avenue and Richmond Drive (see map #1).

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1824 Rosedale Avenue
Louisville, Kentucky

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In 1839, Bullock sold the house and surrounding acreage to Francis Thornton. Thornton, a minister, and his wife lived in the house for nearly thirty years. In 1844, however, Thornton sold the property to William B. Clifton, who evidently rented the house to Thornton.

Clifton was a local merchant, involved in various businesses. His most enterprising venture was Clifton, Norton and Co., grocers and commission merchants. Clifton never lived in the Bullock House but owned the property for twenty years. Upon his death in 1864, Clifton's son, Charles H. Clifton inherited the property. In 1873, Charles had the front section of the house constructed. The eastern half of the Bullock House was removed, leaving the central hall, and the Steamboat Italianate / Eastlake style residence was built facing Bardstown Road, an eastwardly direction. According to local directories, young Clifton lived in the new house for only a few years and finally sold it to John E. Norris in 1884.

Oral history has embellished the facts surrounding the house and Mr. Norris. It has in the past been assumed that the house was built by Norris. Norris was said to have been a retired steamboat captain and built the house resembling a steamboat, with its grand cupola in order that he might view the Ohio River and its passing riverboats. The legend continues that "Captain" Norris resorted to hanging himself in the cupola, unable to tolerate his retirement from the river.

Unfortunately, none of this splendid legend is true. Norris was a wealthy stocktrader, having been involved with the Bourbon Stockyards for forty years. He was also president of Ohio Falls Dye and Finish Works for twenty years. Norris was never a riverboat captain. Nor did he hang himself in the cupola. Rather, he died peacefully while napping in his hammock on the front porch of his home in 1918.

After Norris's death, Wm. Randolph, a developer, purchased the house and surrounding thirty-two acres. The area was quickly subdivided. Arthur Yunker purchased several tracts in 1920, including the Bullock-Clifton House. The Yunker family lived in the house for 57 years, thus it is commonly known as the Yunker House.

Architecturally, the house contains many unique aspects. No other known residence in the city of Louisville is designed in the extravagant Steamboat Gothic style of the Bullock-Clifton House. No surface of the exterior is untouched by decorative elements: extraordinary bargeboards, carved panels, unusual window and door hoods, finely carved brackets with pindells, gables, arches and, the crowning glory, an octagonal cupola. The interior has equally lavish elements; marble and cast iron mantels and fireplaces in each room, Lincrusta-Walton wainscoting, several bay windows of various shapes, wide window and door frames and baseboards and beautiful chandeliers.

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Bullock-Clifton House
1824 Rosedale Avenue
Louisville, Kentucky
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The Federal style of the rear section of the house is the oldest known frame residence in Louisville. The exterior was altered in 1873 when the front section was added, but the Federal style remains evident.

The manner in which the two houses were joined is, in itself, an ingenious solution to a difficult problem. Then the front section of the house was constructed in 1873, it was only logical that it face Bardstown Road, a busy country road in those days. But constructing the new section with its central hall perpendicular to the central hall of the old section is a very practical design. The crossed axes make for sensible traffic patterns. The original staircase in the central hall of the Federal residence was no longer needed and would have created problems in connecting the two sections. It was, therefore, removed and another added between the two remaining rooms on the first floor. On the second floor the differences in ceiling heights of the two sections caused little problem. One of the connecting doorways leads to the main stair landing of the front section and the second doorway is simply reached by several steps.

The Bullock-Clifton House is architecturally and historically important to Louisville's history. Both the Steamboat Gothic style of the front section and the frame Federal style of the rear section are unique to the city. Their combination into one residence is masterful. William Bullock, the first owner of the property, was a vital force in the mid-nineteenth century educational and humanitarian movement.

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1824 Rosedale Avenue
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FOOTNOTES

1

Historical information on William Bullock compiled from Joblin, M. and Co. (ed.), Louisville Past and Present (Louisville: John P. Morton and Co., 1875), pp. 120-25.

2

Dana, Richard H., Jr., The Old Hill Towns of Windham County, Connecticut ("The White Pine Series of Architectural Monographs," Vol. X, No. 1; St. Paul, Minn.: White Pine Bureau, 1924), p. 12.

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Bullock-Clifton House
1824 Rosewood Avenue
Louisville, Kentucky -
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"John Edward Norris Dies..." Courier-Journal, August 2, 1918.

Louisville Past and Present. Edited by M. Joblin and Co. Louisville, Kentucky:
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Whitehead, Russell Fenimore. White Pine Series. Vol. 10. St. Paul, Minnesota:
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906 FERNWOOD AV.

ROANOKE AV.

906

2592

RICHMOND DRIVE

2600

2593



ROSEDALE AV.

AV.

45.3'

174.78'

90.15'

133'

2589

2590

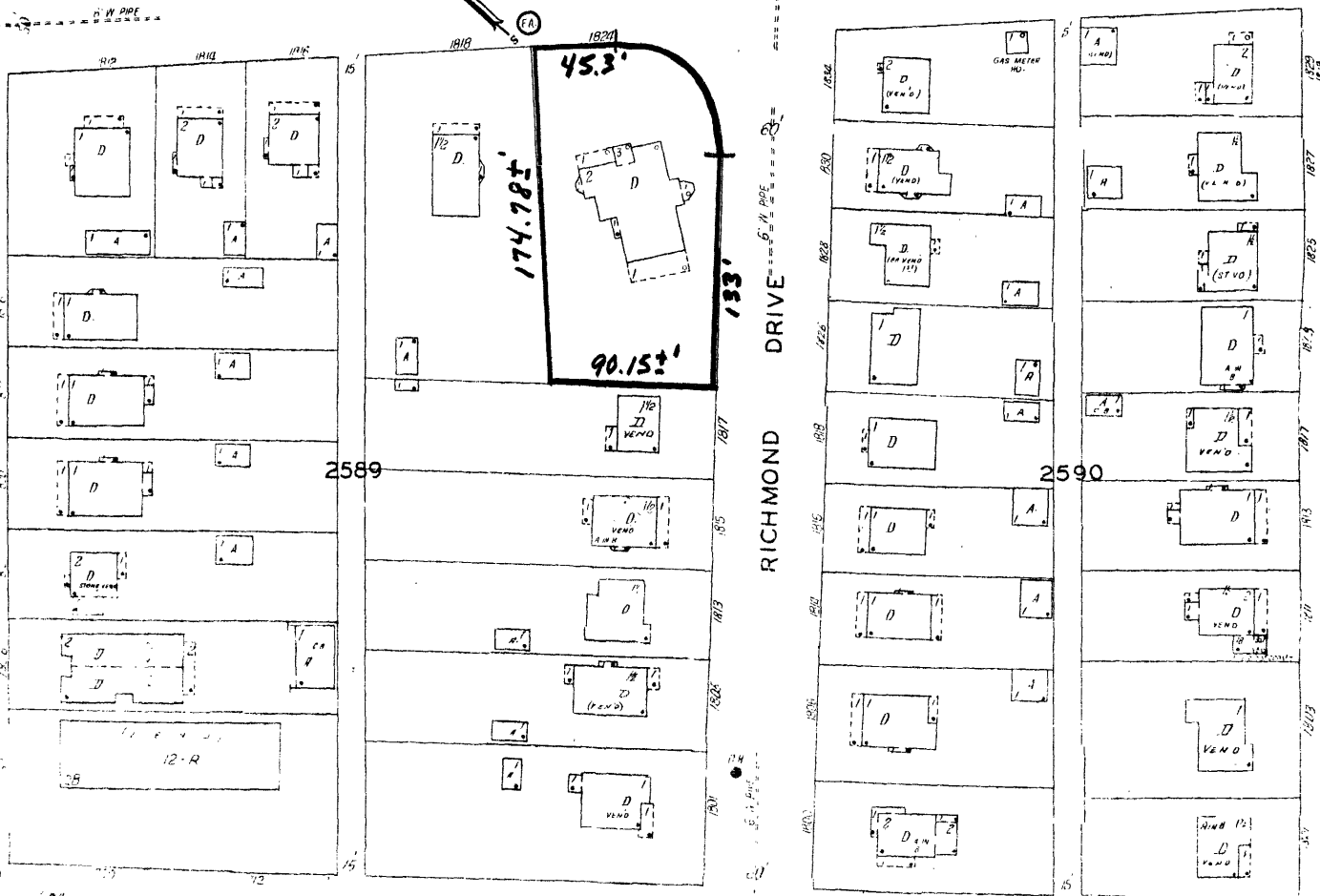
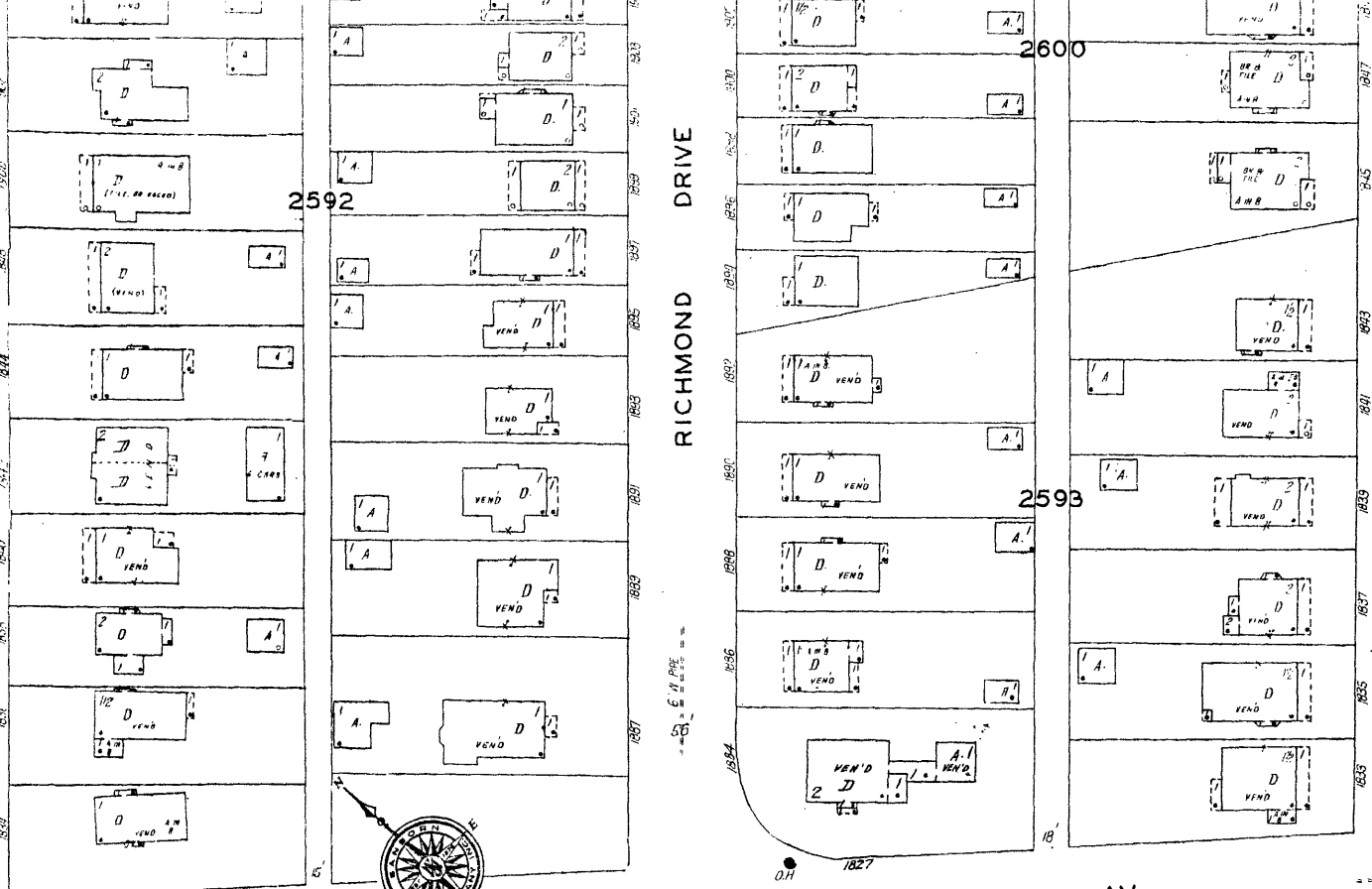
RICHMOND DRIVE

935

SCALE OF FEET

COPYRIGHT SANBORN MAP COMPANY, INC.

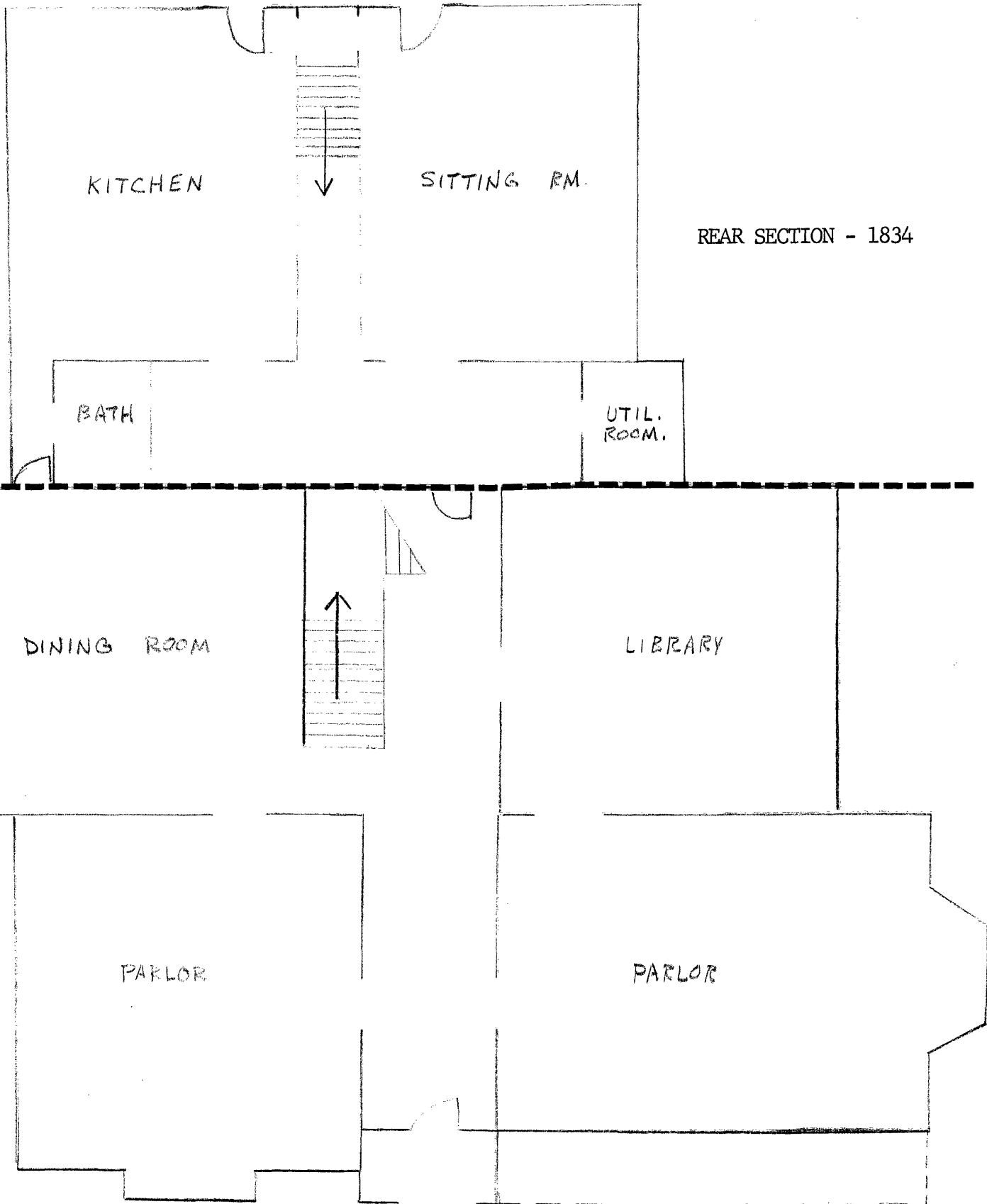
NORRIS PL.



Bullock-Clifton House
1824 Rosedale Ave.
Louisville, Jefferson, Kentucky
Map 1 - Sanborn Map
Sanborn Map Co., 1972

BULLOCK-CLIFTON HOUSE - first floor plan

(not to scale)



REAR SECTION - 1834

DINING ROOM

LIBRARY

PARLOR

PARLOR

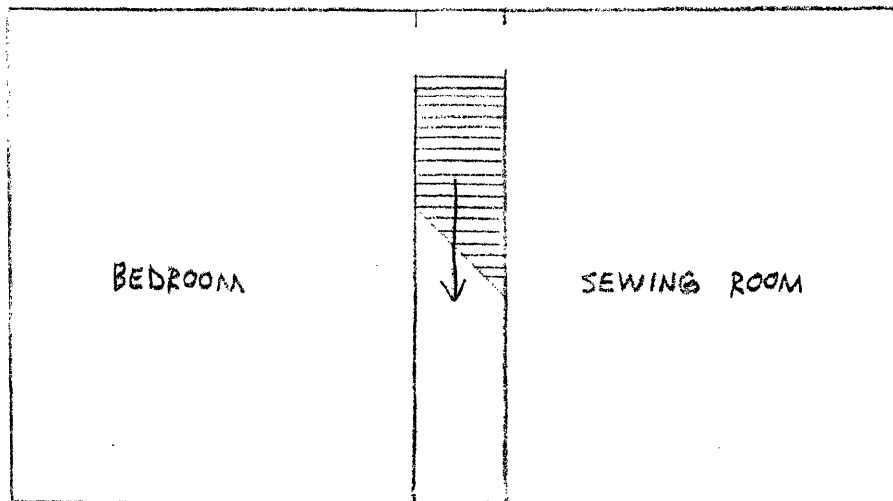
FRONT SECTION - 1870

The Bullock-Clifton House
1824 Rosedale Ave.
Louisville, Jefferson, KY

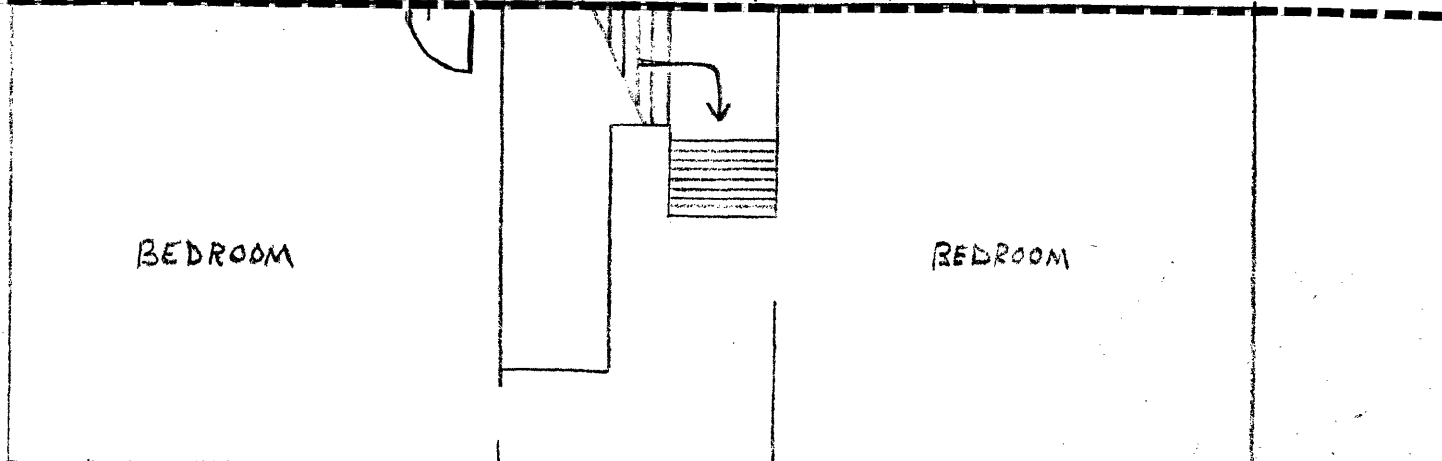
Floor Plan #1

BULLOCK-CLIFTON HOUSE - second floor plan

(not to scale)



REAR SECTION - 1834



FRONT SECTION - 1870

The Bullock-Clifton House
1824 Rosedale Ave.
Louisville, Jefferson, KY

Floor Plan #2