

PH039 021

DATA SHEET

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Kentucky
COUNTY:	Madison
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	MAY 6 1975

1. NAME

COMMON:
Irvinton

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Irvinton

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
319 Lancaster Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Richmond

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
5th

STATE: **Kentucky** CODE: **021** COUNTY: **Madison** CODE: **151**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Comments <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) City & Co. Library Caretakers Quarters

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
The City of Richmond

STREET AND NUMBER:
Public Square, Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Richmond

STATE: **Kentucky** CODE: **021**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Office of County Clerks

STREET AND NUMBER:
Public Square, Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Richmond

STATE: **Kentucky** CODE: **021**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky

DATE OF SURVEY: **1970** Federal State County Local

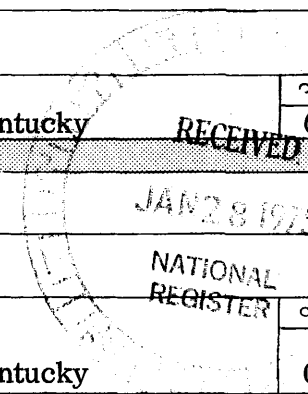
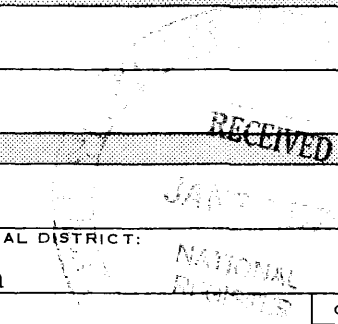
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Kentucky Heritage Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
401 Wapping Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Frankfort

STATE: **Kentucky** CODE: **021**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

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MAY 6 1975

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent
 Good
 Fair
 Deteriorated
 Ruins
 Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered
 Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved
 Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

As originally built in the 1820s, the house was a large two-story rectangular block with low hipped roof, well-proportioned cornice, and exquisite Federal details, including reeded window and door-frames with hand-carved rosettes in the corners. The central entrance portal has a delicately-barred elliptical fanlight and sidelights; the single window above matches the others on the front but is slightly more widely spaced than they. There are slender chimneys over the bare end-walls.

Modification occurred between 1830 and 1835 under the ownership of Col. David Irvine. A spacious two-story extension to the east (back) side of the main block created a T-plan. The details are similar to those of the original portion, but have not been subject to Victorianization as have the openings of the front.

In the 1870s the house was remodelled by Col. Irvine's daughter, Elizabeth Irvine. Additions were made to the north and south behind the original block; the northern extension was removed in 1969. Apparently at the same time two matching bay windows were thrown out of the walls of the two main rooms flanking the entrance, which received a wooden porch with wooden brackets like those on the bays and filigree work between the columns (which have been replaced by non-Victorian classical shafts). All three projections, crowned by handsome castiron railings, lend a picturesque plasticity to the facade without violating the original skyline. The windows of the upper story received square castiron hoodmolds on Italianate brackets; those of the bay are heavy segmental castiron frames not related to the rectangular openings nor to those above which fortunately did not interfere with the fine Federal frames they enclose. The main entrance has also not been altered.

Also at this time the house was painted gray "giving it the air of venerable dignity that it wears today." The first greenhouse in Richmond (no longer extant) was located on the grounds.

The original house apparently consisted of a two-story block with central hall flanked on each story by virtually square rooms. The entrance hall is unusual because it does not contain the staircase, which is in a separate room reached through a narrow round-arched opening with Federal trim opposite the front door. The side rooms also have narrow doors rather than the wide openings of a later period. The outstanding feature of the interior, however, is the magnificent provincial Federal cabinetwork, attributed to Matthew Lowry. Although the mantels have been replaced by handsome Victorian round arched

Continued on "continuation sheet."

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) C. 1820s; 1830-35; 1850; 1870s

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Irvinton is an outstanding example of a residence whose history of prominent early owners is reflected in a series of alterations and additions which fortunately have been superimposed without obliteration of earlier features. The original owner, a distinguished physician, erected a plain brick block with exquisite detailing attributed to Matthew Lowry, noted early Kentucky cabinet-maker. The next family to purchase the house added to its architectural refinement. A daughter, a socialite and philanthropist, contributed lavish mid-Victorian features.

The house as a whole, on its conspicuous setting in a substantial residential section at the edge of the Eastern Kentucky University campus near downtown Richmond, has an impressive and individual character evocative of its history. Later use as one of only two trachoma hospitals in the United States and more recently as a public library in a public park have not destroyed this character.

The pioneer physician responsible for the earliest construction was Dr. Anthony Wayne Rollins, a native Pennsylvanian of Irish parentage. Dr. Rollins' son, James Sidney Rollins (1812-1888), noted educator and legislator, spent much of his boyhood at Irvinton. In the 1830s he moved to Missouri where he served in the State Legislature, sponsoring legislation related to education and public improvements. It was under his leadership that the first state university in Missouri was founded and financed. Rollins was first elected to the U. S. Congress during the critical 1850 period preceding the outbreak of the Civil War. He proved an especially effective moderate "free from intolerance and fanaticism of some border state politicians" and opposed the "proscriptive and punitive spirit and measures both in Missouri and in the Nation."

Colonel David Irvine, attorney and affluent landowner, purchased the Rollins house in 1830. David Irvine's father, Colonel William Irvine, prior to Kentucky's separation from Virginia, was a member of the Virginia Legislature. At the time Madison County was established he was appointed county clerk and served later as the first city clerk of the city of Richmond.

This house purchased by Irvine was given to his daughter Elizabeth Susan soon after her marriage to William McClanahan Irvine.

Continued on "continuation sheet"

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Boyd, Lucinda. The Irvins and Their Kin. Chicago: R. R. Donnelly & Sons, 1908, pp. 132-151.
 Caperton, Mrs. James. Early Homes in Kentucky. Manuscript, (1930) p. 25.
 Collins, Lewis. History of Kentucky. Cincinnati, Ohio, and Maysville, Kentucky: Lewis Collins and J. A. and U. P. James, 1847, pp. 423-424.
 Dorris, Jonathan Truman and Maud Weaver Dorris. Glimpses of Historic Madison County, Kentucky. Nashville: Williams Printing Co., 1955, pp. 82, 205, 300, 301, 309.

Continued on "Continuation Sheet"

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		37 ° 44 ' 40 "	84 ° 17 ' 58 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

16/737940
4180680

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **One Acre**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Mrs. Shirley E. Begley, Committee Chairwoman** G. M.

ORGANIZATION: **Richmond City Park Board** DATE: **November 13, 1971**

STREET AND NUMBER: **223 Summit Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Richmond** STATE: **Kentucky** CODE: **021**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Eldred W. Nye

Title State Liaison Officer

Date 1-8-75

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Alfred W. Mowbray
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 5/6/75

ATTEST:
Charles H. Henry
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 5-2-75

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Irvinton

7. Description (Continued)

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red-marble ones, they are flanked by superb Federal closets recessed into the wall. The frames are reeded, as are even the "capitals." Above the doors are typically flat Federal semicircular fans under a beaded "keystone." At the center of the fan is a series of beadlike concentric ornaments and at the outer edge there are incised swags. The whole effect is highly abstract yet delicate, exploiting the hand tools of the master carpenter's art of the period. In contrast to the two-dimensional quality of the earlier woodwork are the "improvements" of the Civil War period; the rich arabesques of foliage that form the chandelier medallions (totally without geometric delineation and therefore stylistically opposed to Lowry's compositions). Cornices in the parlor, although somewhat more restrained, are also highly plastic and unclassical. A late 19th-century chandelier with etched frosted glass globes also survives in the parlor. Elsewhere in the house are elements of both the earlier and later embellishments, somehow harmoniously juxtaposed.

Among the outbuildings are a small square brick cottage with hipped roof, not unlike a smokehouse in form, and remnants of a board-and-batten stable or coachhouse with "Gothic" trim.

The later additions at the rear do not compromise the integrity of the main block as seen from the front, nor do they rob the complex as a whole of its essentially domestic scale.

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(Number all entries)

Irvinton

8. Significance (Continued)

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Elizabeth Irvine came from an impressive lineage. Through her mother, Susan McDowell, she was a granddaughter of Doctor Ephraim McDowell, the first doctor to perform an ovariectomy and a great-granddaughter of Isaac Shelby, first Governor of Kentucky (1750-1826). The graciousness and hospitality of Mrs. Irvine made the residence well known throughout the county--"Irvinton became one of the finest old homes in Madison County, where the Irvines, the McDowells, the Burnames, the Clays, the Shelys, and many other names prominent in the annals of Kentucky were often associated with its hospitality." (Jonathan Truman Dorris and Maud Weaver Dorris, Glimpses of Historic Madison County, Kentucky. Nashville: Williams Printing Co., 1955, p. 300)

Mrs. Irvine died in 1918, willing her home to the Medical Society of Kentucky in memory of her father, Colonel Irvine, and her grandfather, Doctor McDowell. The Society, in conjunction with the U. S. Health Service, used the house for treatment of those persons whose vision had been impaired by trachoma. In 1950 it ceased functioning as a hospital and the property became a city playground and recreational center. It has of late been used as the city-county library.

The outstanding decorative feature of Irvinton remain those probably dating from the original construction period in the 1820s. The cabinetwork is attributed to Matthew Lowry, whose name is a byword for fine wood-carving in Central Kentucky in the first quarter of the 19th century. There are numerous similarities between the design and execution of the cabinets in the dining room of Irvinton and other examples in Madison County, such as Castlewood, a great house near Richmond built about 1820 and destroyed since World War II. The exterior, in fact, had a low hipped roof of similar proportions to Irvinton, but with the addition of very early colossal pilasters on the facade and gabled end-pavilions. The rear parlor cabinets had doors panelled very much like those of Irvinton and somewhat similar treatment of the fan; other doorways at Castlewood had "keystones" like those over the Irvinton dining room cabinets. The cabinets of Woodlawn, another Richmond house dated 1822, has similar proportions, keystone, and even stylized swags in the fan. Thus, although it is impossible to assign the work to an individual craftsman, their cabinets and other details (such as the exterior window frames, interior frames, matched by those at Castlewood and also by some now on the outside of the Karrick-Parks House in Perryville in nearby Boyle County) definitely belong to a local school of craftsmen who achieved a distinctive local style of cabinetwork.

(For comparative examples see Plates 59-63 in Rexford Newcomb, Old Kentucky Architecture. (New York: William Helburn, Inc., 1940)

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Irvinton

9. Major Bibliographical References (Continued)

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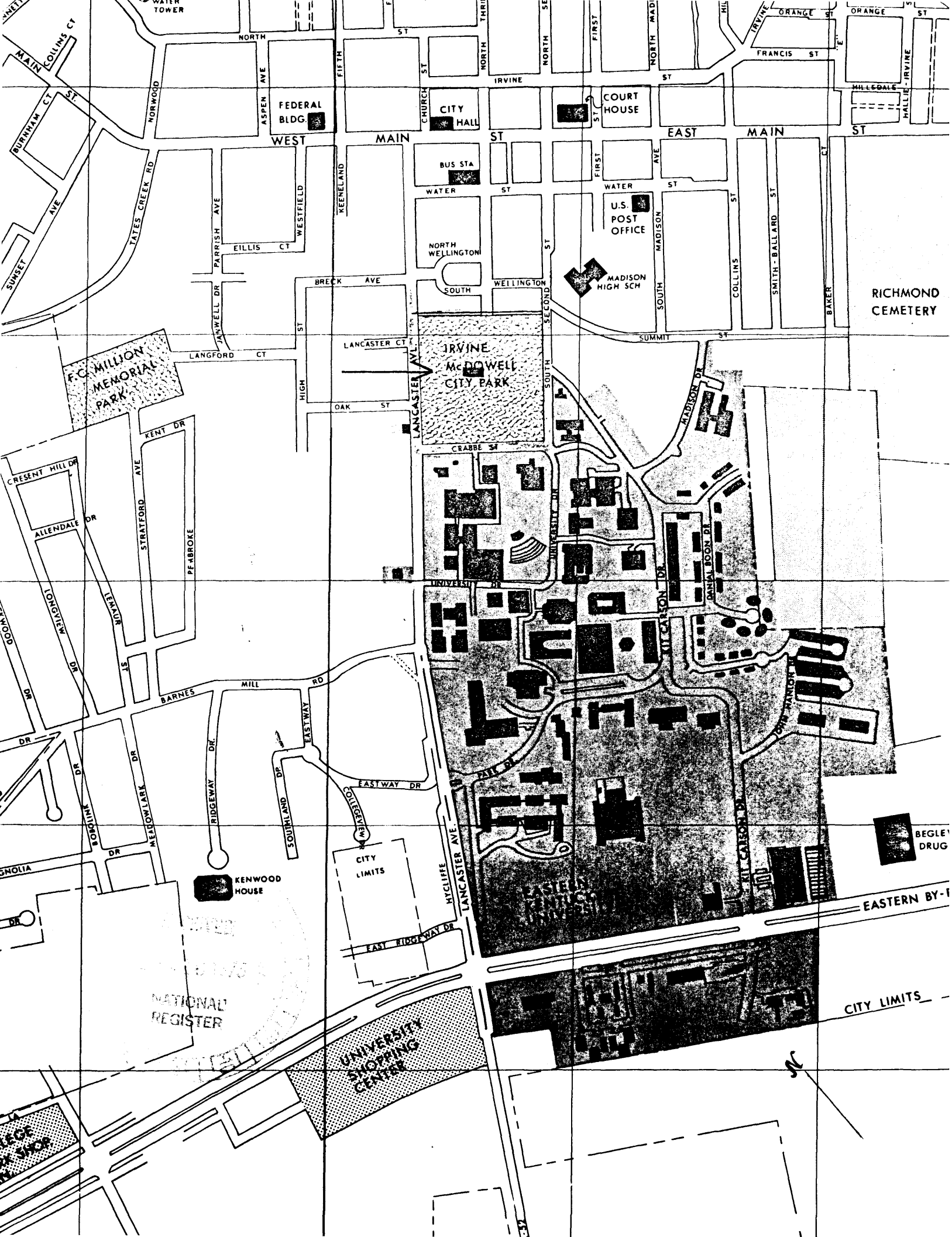
Malone, Dumas, ed. "James Sidney Rollins." Dictionary of American Biography
Vol. VIII. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1935, pp. 121-122.

Miller, W. H. History and Genealogy of Madison County. Vol. II, Lexington:
Transylvania Company, 1916, Sec. 4 and 374.

Newcomb, Rexford. Old Kentucky Architecture. New York: Bonanza Books, 1940,
p. 61.

Smith, William Benjamin. James S. Rollins. New York: De Vinne Press, 1891,
pp. 1-80.

Todd, Russell. This is Boone County. Richmond: by the author, 1968, p. 29.



FEDERAL BLDG.

CITY HALL

COURT HOUSE

BUS STA

U.S. POST OFFICE

MADISON HIGH SCH

IRVINE McDOWELL CITY PARK

UNIVERSITY

EASTERN CENTER

KENWOOD HOUSE

CITY LIMITS

NATIONAL REGISTER

UNIVERSITY SHOPPING CENTER

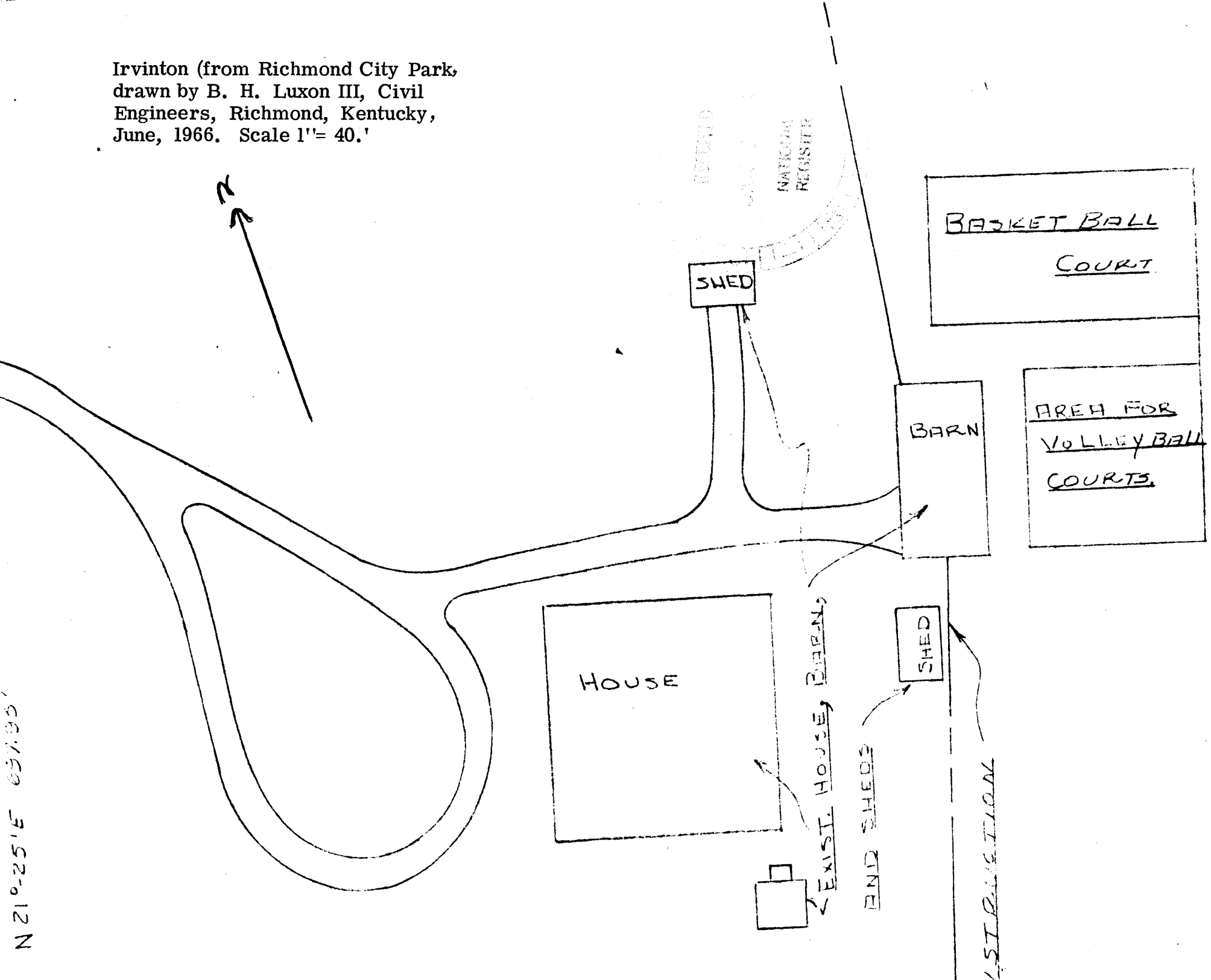
RICHMOND CEMETERY

BEGLEY DRUG

EASTERN BY-PASS

CITY LIMITS

Irvinton (from Richmond City Park,
drawn by B. H. Luxon III, Civil
Engineers, Richmond, Kentucky,
June, 1966. Scale 1" = 40.')



N 21° 25' E 697.05'

SHED

BASKET BALL COURT

BARN

AREA FOR VOLLEYBALL COURTS

HOUSE

SHED

EXIST. HOUSE, BARN, AND SHEDS

EXIST. DRIVEWAY

