

PH0024244

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

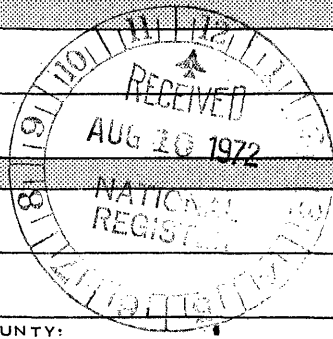
STATE:	KENTUCKY	
COUNTY:	FAYETTE	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	
	MAR 7	1972

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON: Botherum

AND/OR HISTORIC: (Madison C. Johnson House)



2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 341 Madison Place

CITY OR TOWN: Lexington

STATE: Kentucky CODE: 21 COUNTY: Fayette CODE: 067

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
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 type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Historic House</u> <u>Museum</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Curtis W. Harrison

STREET AND NUMBER: 341 Madison Place

CITY OR TOWN: Lexington STATE: Kentucky CODE: 21

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Fayette County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER: West Main Street

CITY OR TOWN: Lexington STATE: Kentucky CODE: 21

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: 2) Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky
1) Historic American Building Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1) Federal 2) State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: 1) Library of Congress 2) Kentucky Heritage Commission

STREET AND NUMBER: 21401 Wapping Street

CITY OR TOWN: 2) Frankfort STATE: Kentucky CODE: 21

STATE: KENTUCKY

COUNTY: FAYETTE

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ENTRY NUMBER: MAR 7 1972

DATE: MAR 7 1972

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

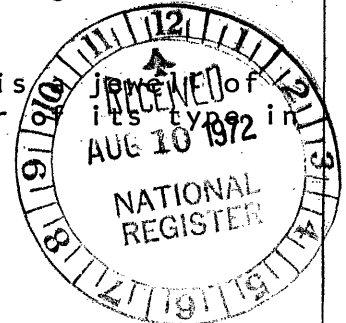
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

A quote from Rexford Newcomb's book, Old Kentucky Architecture, "Indeed McMurtry (John McMurtry the Architect) worked upon occasion in what might be called a Roman phase of the Classic Revival, as witness Botherum designed by him in 1851. The walls of rough stone contrast markedly with the precise lines of the fluted Corinthian Porticoes which flank the structure on two facades. The denticulated entablature of these porticoes continue around the house which is crowned by an octagonal iron-railed cupola. 'Botherum' is a unique house."

The following quote is from Clay Lancaster, architectural historian: "The combination of Corinthian and Gothic was a perfectly natural thing for McMurtry, who wrote: 'All styles maybe divided into two classes. One derived from the post and lintel and the other from the arch; the Grecian being first and the Roman or Gothic the second.' McMurtry was fundamentally a builder, and for him style followed a system of construction rather than historical precedent. In Botherum the two modes are combined more happily than one would expect. The overall effect is not discordant."

Botherum is truly an eclectic house combining many different elements from various architectural styles. The exterior has rough stone walls from limestone which contains many fossils and laid in mortar containing coal chips, which glisten in the sunlight. One ell of the house is built of brick and plastered over and marked to simulate stone. This of course gives a very smooth and regular surface in contrast to the roughness of the real stone walls. The pediments of the house are made of wood but are sawed to resemble stone in the fashion that is used in french styles and at Mt. Vernon. The house has an elaborate system of freestanding columns and pilasters on the three main facades. These are all a romanized version of the classic Corinthian order. Little change has come to the house since it was built in 1851. A garden which occupied and enclosed space between the two original ells was closed in after the Civil War. This necessitated bringing the kitchen up from the basement to the original dining room and making a new dining room from the garden area. The original diamond-shaped bohemian glass doors and windows on the exterior were replaced by clear glass about 1890. Doors in the interior still contain the original bohemian glass.

Clay Lancaster, has been quoted that Botherum is Architecture which contains the finest interior existence.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1851

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/Philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			

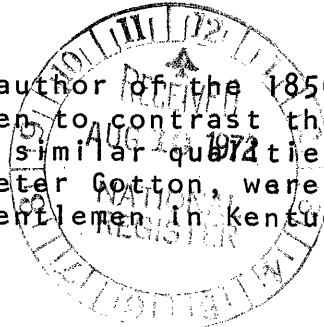
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Madison C. Johnson commissioned John McMurtry to build a love temple in which he could live and recall the beautiful memories of his wife who had died in childbirth twenty three years previously. Johnson was an eccentric and struggled all his life under a fetish that he was physically ugly. He felt this so strongly that the President of Transylvania College sent him his diploma and read Johnson's valedictorial address himself. Johnson graduated with a Law degree at the age of fifteen. He later worked with Henry Clay and became a confidant of Abraham Lincoln. It has been said that Lincoln asked him to accept the cabinet post of Treasurer in his cabinet but that Johnson refused feeling that he would not be accepted into the Washington Social Life due to his physical appearance.

Johnson became a fast friend of Cassius M. Clay, the Emancipationist, and actively managed Clay's financial affairs during the time Clay served as Ambassador to Russia and succeeded in bailing Clay out of many difficult financial ventures. Clay's younger sister, Sally Ann, was widowed after only a few weeks of marriage and it was during this time of bereavement that Johnson consoled and married her. He was always aware of her beauty and loveliness, so he commissioned Botherum to be built as a shrine to her memory. It is certain that he influenced the plans because it is unique and unlike any other McMurtry house.

Although Johnson used the house as a stopover for the underground railroad during pre-Civil War days he was very particular who should be allowed to use the house and never during his life let any relative or friend spend the night under its roof. He built another house to the rear of Botherum to house his card games and occasional guests.

James Lane Allen, a noted author of the 1850's used Botherum as the scene of a story written to contrast the black man and the white man and to show that similar qualities existed in both. Johnson and his servant, Peter Gotton, were used as prototypes in the story called "Two Gentlemen in Kentucky."



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Rexford Newcomb - Old Kentucky Architecture 1940
 Rexford Newcomb - Architecture In Old Kentucky 1953
 Elizabeth Patterson Thomas - Old Kentucky Homes and Gardens
 James Littrel - Historic Lexington Homes 1959
 Robert W. Harrison - History Of Fayette County, Kentucky 1938
 Clay Lancaster - Ante Bellum Houses Of The Bluegrass 1961
 Clay Lancaster - Back Streets and Pines Trees 1958
 Eliz. M. Simpson - Bluegrass Houses and Their Traditions 1932
 Joe Jordan - Lexington Landmarks 1947
 B.L. Mastin - Lexington Houses; Burton Milward-Notes On Lex. Homes

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	° ' "	° ' "		38° 02' 59"	84° 30' 27.5"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

UTM
 14/718730
 4214050
 CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than 10 acres.

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: Charles E. Parrish, Assistant Director

ORGANIZATION: Kentucky Heritage Commission DATE: July 31, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER: 401 Wapping Street

CITY OR TOWN: Frankfort STATE: Kentucky CODE: 21

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: [Signature]

Title: LLO

Date: 8-4-72

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

[Signature: Robert H. Utley]
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 3/7/73

ATTEST: [Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 3-5-73