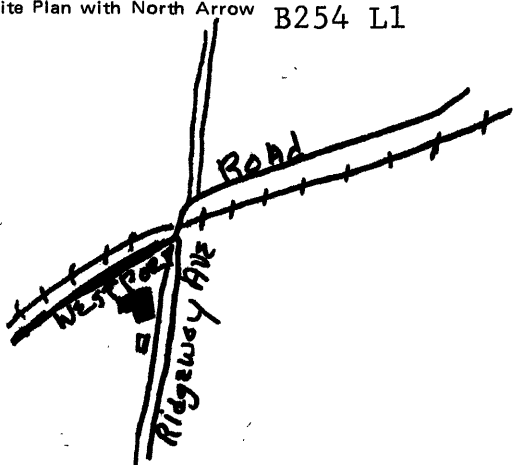


1. Historic Name (s) <u>Dr. Lewis House</u>		22. ADD/County <u>Jefferson/Jefferson</u>																												
Original Owner <u>Dr. John N. Lewis</u>		23. Zoning Classification <u>Magisterial District</u>																												
Present Name <u>Oechsli-Ruckriegel</u>		24. U.S.G. S. Quadrant (15'/75') <u>Jeffersonville, Indiana</u>																												
3. Owner's Name <u>Mary R. and Martin Ruckriegel</u>		25. UTM Reference <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; border-collapse: collapse;"><tr><td>1</td><td>6</td><td>6</td><td>1</td><td>8</td><td>1</td><td>9</td><td>0</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>8</td><td>6</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td colspan="4">Zone</td><td colspan="4">Easting</td><td colspan="4">Northing</td></tr></table>		1	6	6	1	8	1	9	0	4	2	3	4	8	6	0	Zone				Easting				Northing			
1	6	6	1	8	1	9	0	4	2	3	4	8	6	0																
Zone				Easting				Northing																						
4. Owner's Address <u>220 Ridgeway Avenue, Lou. 40207</u>		26. Prehistoric Site Historic Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>																												
5. Location <u>220 Ridgeway (at intersection Westport Road) Louisville</u>		27. District Name: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>																												
6. Open to Public Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		28. Significance Evaluation																												
7. Visible from road Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		29. Status National Landmark <input type="checkbox"/> National Register <input type="checkbox"/> Landmark Certificate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>1977</u> Kentucky Survey <input type="checkbox"/> Local Landmark <input type="checkbox"/> HABS/HAER <input type="checkbox"/>																												
9. Local Contact/Organization		30. Theme Primary <u>History</u> Secondary <u>Architecture</u> Other <input type="checkbox"/>																												
8. Ownership Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/>		31. Endangered Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>																												
10. Site Plan with North Arrow <u>B254 L1</u> 		32. ATTACH PHOTO																												
11. Architect <u>Unknown</u>		Roll No. _____																												
12. Builder <u>Unknown</u>		Picture No. _____																												
13. Date <u>First half 19th Century</u>		Direction _____																												
14. Style <input type="checkbox"/>		33. Tape No. _____ Negative No. _____																												
15. Original Use <u>(See Next Page)</u>		34. Prepared by: <u>Mary Jean Kinsman</u> <u>Researcher</u>																												
16. Present Use <u>Dwelling</u>		35. Organization <u>Jefferson County</u> <u>Office of Historic Preservation</u>																												
17. Condition <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Interior Good</u> <u>Exterior Excellent</u>		36. Date <u>1 October 1979</u>																												
18. Description <u>Five-bay, two-story, house on stone foundation. The first floor is brick; the second floor, frame. Hip roof with paired interior end chimneys. Two-story frame addition extends off east side of main block. Small, two-story addition extends off east side of main block. Small, two-story addition off back on west side. Front entrance in center bay with another door directly above. The first floor (SEE NEXT PAGE)</u>		37. Revision Dates <u>November 29, 1982</u>																												
19. History <u>In 1838 Dr. John N. Lewis purchased the five acre house tract from Daniel Gilman, a well-known landowner and tavern operator in this area, which was known as Gilman's Point until the late nineteenth century. According to local tradition, Dr. Lewis built the house which also served as his medical office. There are also references to the building being a stage stop, but no proof has been found. The site was at a prominent (see next page)</u>		38. Staff Review																												
20. Significance <u>The Lewis house has been a familiar landmark in St. Matthews since the nineteenth century. It is the only surviving nineteenth-century building in this prominent location along Westport Road - an area of twentieth-century commercial development. It is historically (see next page)</u>																														
21. Source of Information <u>Dorsey, R.O. History and Pictures, St. Matthews, 1968. (see next page)</u>																														

15. Continued

Dwelling and Medical Offices.

18. Continued

openings are small and short while the second story windows are larger. All windows have 6/6 pane sash. First floor openings have stone sills and jack arches. A two-story porch, supported by posts, with a row of spindles at the top and decorative work at corners extends across facade. A balustrade connects the posts on second floor. When Oechsli purchased the house in 1893 there was a broad staircase in front leading to the second-floor. The different materials on the first and second story and the larger proportions of the second story and its openings suggest that the house was either built in two stages or that the frame second story was added later in the nineteenth century.

19. Continued

location in the nineteenth century between the Westport Road and the Louisville-Lexington Turnpike and, after the 1850s, just south of the Louisville and Lexington Railroad tracks. Dr. Lewis died in 1878. His son, also a doctor, inherited the house and also had his medical office there. In 1889 the Lewis heirs sold the property. Joseph Oechsli bought it in 1893 and in 1926 he subdivided the land into Excella Place, one of the first subdivisions in St. Matthews (the name given to Gilman's Point at the turn of the century). The house is still owned by Oechsli descendants.

20. Continued

important for the association with Dr. John N. Lewis, who is believed to have been the builder. He and his son were prominent doctors in the area for over 50 years.

21. Continued

Williams, L.A. & Co. History of the Ohio Falls Cities and Their Counties, 1882.

Jefferson County (KY) Will Books

Jefferson County (KY) Deed Books

Mary Ratterman Ruckriegel

#### Boundary Description

The boundary of the Lewis house nomination is shown as a red line on the attached aerial photo. (SCALE: 1" = 200') The nominated site contains approximately 6600 sq. ft. and includes the house and smokehouse.

Dr. Lewis House (JF-386)

Revised statement of significance, 20.

The Lewis House is significant in two respects. First, the property clearly reflects certain key patterns of settlement and development in eastern Jefferson County from the second quarter of the 19th century onward, particularly relating to transportation and the geography of professional services. And second, the house is a distinctive example of vernacular building practices expressing a combination of materials seldom seen in a resource of this general location and period.

Historical evidences of Gilman's Point, a settlement already mentioned in reference to the County's development (eg: MRA Nomination Form 8-7 and 8-9), have largely vanished--with the exception of JF-386. The Lewis property was situated near the junction of two significant 19th-century transportation routes which defined the reason for being for Gilman's Point--and, indirectly, the Lewis House. The major routes--the Westport Road and the Louisville-Lexington Turnpike--were essential elements in the growth and settlement of the County throughout the century, linking Louisville with other large and small communities and allowing transport within the region. The significance of the roads was abetted later in the century and after the construction of the Lewis House by extension of what eventually came to be called the Louisville, Cincinnati and Lexington Railroad, a rail route which bordered the Lewis House and bisected the farmland lying between the two turnpikes as they diverged immediately to the east. Gilman's Point and the Lewis House formed the first major stop on the railroad east of Louisville and--earlier--one of a handful of peripheral towns or similar "points" making an arc some four to five miles from the Courthouse, a distance too far to be practically handled by pedestrians and yet close enough to allow a productive day in town when using horse power for transportation.

Another evidence of the connection between the Lewis House, Gilman's Point, and patterns of 19th century urbanism was the siting of the house. Lewis purchased his original acreage in a relatively small amount on land already speculatively subdivided suggesting that the settlers of Gilman's Point regarded the future of the place with optimism. The construction of the house relatively close to the road instead of farther within the tract also suggested an attitude imitative of more urban practices.

Gilman's Point and the Lewis House provided an historical index as well of centrality. This early medical practice served a market of large farm estates, small farms, and townspeople,

with the closest fellow practitioners being on the eastern outskirts of Louisville, or about two miles equidistant to the east, in the vicinity of the Stephen Ormsby House (JF-434).

The principal building materials of the main block of the Lewis House--brick surmounted by a weatherboarded second floor--indicated a rare, vernacular approach. In the absence of definitive documentary or conclusive physical evidences, the difference in material could have resulted from either a separate construction episode or repairs following some disaster such as a severe fire. Judging from the consistent scale of the first and second floors of the main block, however, the change was likely a mere effort to add to the existing brick house on the relatively constricted site economically and without overburdening the lower walls and foundations. The Gilman's Point vicinity has had wet, sandy soil conditions historically; possibly a contributing factor.