NPS Form 10-900 No. 1024-0018 (Rev. 10-90)United States Department of the Interior National Park Service NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTER, HISTORY REGISTRATION FORM R EDUCATION NATIONAL PARK SERVICE 1. Name of Property: historic name: Fincastle other names/site number: \_\_JF-918 2. Location: street & number: 7501 Wolf Pen Branch Road Kentucky city or town: Prospect state: code: KY county: **Jefferson** code: 111 zip code: 40059 vicinity: X not for publication: NA 3. State/Federal Agency Certification: As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this XX 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 XX meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally XXlocally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.) Signature of Certifying Official(David L. Morgan)
Shpo & Executive Director State Historic Preservation Office/Ky. Heritage Council State or Federal Agency and Bureau Date In my opinion, the property \_\_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. (\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.) Signature of Commenting or Other Official Date State or Federal Agency and Bureau 4. National Park Service Certification; innature of the Keaper/Dat I, hereby certify that this property is: \_ Entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet. Determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

Fincastle, Jefferson County, Kentucky		
Determined not eligible for the National Register Removed from the National Register Other (explain):		
5. Classification Ownership of Property:  X private public-local public-State public-Federal		
Category of Property:  building(s)  X district site structure object		
Number of Resources within Propert	у:	
Contributing Noncontribu	ting buildings sites structures objects total	
Number of contributing resources precedents:	eviously listed in the National	
Name of related multiple property 1:	isting: Louisville and Jefferson	
6. Function or Use: Historic Functions:	Current Function:	
Domestic-single dwelling Domestic-secondary structure Landscape-garden	Domestic-single dwelling Domestic-secondary structure Landscape-garden	
7. Description Architectural Classification:		

Late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Revivals: Colonial Revival Mid-19th: Greek Revival

### Fincastle, Jefferson County, Kentucky.

Materials	:
fo	undation: Concrete
ro	of: Tile Shingles
wa	lls: Brick
	har
	1101.
	world the following an area works and appropriate and area and the following and and propriate and area and a second productions and area are and area area.
Narrative	Description: See pg. 7-1.
8. Statem	ent of Significance:
Applicabl	e National Register Criteria:
A	Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
В	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
<b>X</b> 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:
A	owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
В	removed from its original location.
C	a birthplace or a 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.

### Fincastle, Jefferson County, Kentucky. Areas of Significance: Period of Significance: Architecture Landscape Architecture Significant Dates: 1937 Significant Person: NA Cultural Affiliation: NA Architect/Builder: Ambrose C. Cramer- Architect Victor L. Charn- Architect Anne Bruce Haldeman- Landscape Architect Narrative Statement of Significance: See pg. 8-1. 9. Major Bibliographical References: See pg. 9-1. 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: \_\_\_ Local government X State Historic Preservation Office \_\_\_ Other State agency University Federal agency Other 10. Geographical Data: Acreage of Property 144 Acres UTM References: Zone Easting Northing 16 621280 4243400 1 2 16 621920 4243540 3 16 622240 4242880

4242560

Verbal Boundary Description: See pg. 10-1.

621860

Boundary Justification: See pg. 10-1.

16

### Fincastle, Jefferson County, Kentucky

11. Form Prepared By:

name/title Karen E. Hudson organization KEH Preservation Services street & number 876 Lynn Drive telephone (606) 278-3919 city or town Lexington state KY zip code 40504

Property Owner:

name W.L. Lyons Brown, JR. And Alice Cary Farmer Brown
street & number: 7501 Wolf Pen Branch Road telephone: (502)5858935 city or town: Prospect state: KY zip code: 40059

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

Fincastle
Jefferson County, Kentucky

#### NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Fincastle (JF-918) is a 144 acre country estate constructed in 1937 for George W. Norton, III, founder of WAVE radio and television. Fincastle is situated in eastern Jefferson County near the water sheds of Harrods Creek and Wolf Pen Branch. The estate is near the "Country Estates of River Road" National Register historic district and is related to the "Country Estate" property type as defined in the Louisville and Jefferson County MRA. Its major historic resources include: an architect designed Colonial Revival style home; a designed historic landscape; a culturally significant landscape; artist's studio; barn; springhouse; caretakers house. The area proposed for listing on the National Register includes 7 contributing resources: 4 buildings, 2 sites, and 1 structure; and 5 non-contributing resources: 3 buildings and 2 structures. Though the two contributing sites -- formal landscape and natural landscape -- are extensive they are counted as two resources for the purposes of this nomination.

Fincastle is located on the north side of Wolf Pen Branch Road. The southern boundary of the property consists of a non-historic rail fence which runs parallel to Wolf Pen Branch Road (A). The Greek Revival home, that was originally the primary residence and now the caretakers residence (B), as well as a non-historic barn (C), are located near the road at the southeast corner of the property. Harrods Creek forms the northern boundary of the property (D). The east and west boundaries are marked by established tree lines (E). The brick, two-story, split level, Colonial Revival home (F) is located on the highest point of the estate, at the end of a long and winding drive (G). The driveway traverses through manicured pasture land (H). A springhouse (I) is located east of the drive as it nears the home. At the residence, the drive splits. One branch proceeds to the back of the home where it terminates at an attached

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 2

# Fincastle Jefferson County, Kentucky

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

three-car garage. The other branch proceeds to the front of the residence where it merges into a formally landscaped circular drive with a curved entrance court wall (J).

A one-story, brick studio (K) is located south of the home. The two structures are separated by a formal walled garden and grass terrace (L). A small frame barn (M) is located behind the studio and a non-historic green house (N) is located on high ground east of the studio. A non-historic swimming pool (O) and curved brick bath house (P) are located northwest of the home. The pool is separated from the home by a formal garden (Q). Behind the home, the land falls sharply to Harrods Creek. Unlike the formal landscape surrounding the home, this area, by design, is natural (R). Trees, sink holes, large rocks, an intermittent creek, and the large bend of Harrods Creek characterize the natural landscape.

All of the non-contributing resources were built after the period of significance. They are all small buildings (greenhouse, barn, bath house) or structures (pool, rail fence). Their number, size, scale, design, and location are such that they do not destroy the sense of historic environment. Furthermore, the relationship among the property's essential components are substantially unchanged. As a result, Fincastle is able to convey significant characteristics associated with the "country estate" property type as defined in the Louisville and Jefferson County MRA.

#### DESCRIPTION OF INDIVIDUAL RESOURCES

A. Rail Fence (non-contributing): A wooden rail fence, constructed after the period of significance, borders Wolf Pen Branch Road and extends the full length of the property. Though the fence is not fifty years old, it replaced an

OMB No.

NPS Form 10-900-a 1024-0018 (8-86)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 3

# Fincastle Jefferson County, Kentucky

earlier fence and thus, it maintains the spacial relationship of the district.

- B. Greek Revival Residence (contributing): An 1860s two-story, frame, side-passage plan, Greek Revival style home with one-story wing and two-story rear ell. The eave-oriented gable-roof has eave returns and a composition shingle covering. The home has a stone foundation, 2/2 windows, and a entrance porch with square post and scrolled brackets. The aluminum sheathing has been applied in a manner that maintains many of the historic features. Originally the primary residence of a working farm, the home was converted into the caretakers residence when the farm was developed into a "country estate" in 1937.
- C. <u>Barn</u> (non-contributing): Frame barn constructed after the period of significance. Stone foundation, composition shingle roof, vertical board siding, and ridge ventilator. Though this structure does not meet the age criteria, it appears to be located on the foundation of an earlier outbuilding of similar size and form. As a result, it does not compromise the historic integrity of the district.
- D. Harrods Creek (contributing): A large bend in Harrods Creek forms a natural boundary for the property. The location of the creek was a significant contributing factor in locating Fincastle.
- **E.** Tree Line Boundary (contributing): Both the east and west boundaries are demarcated by established tree lines.
- F. <u>Dwelling</u> (contributing): The brick home is built into a hillside, as a result, the "Entrance Court Elevation" (east) appears to be one-story. Norton's goal was to have a typical

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 4

### Fincastle Jefferson County, Kentucky

one-story Federal style Kentucky home on the east elevation and a traditional two-story Virginia home on the west or "Garden Elevation." The "Entrance Court Elevation" is a near replica of Ridgeway, the Churchill Humphrey house, built at St. Matthews, Jefferson County, Kentucky in 1805 (National Register, 1973). The Federal style home has a hipped roof central mass flanked by outlying wings, connected by lower links. A simple but graceful tetrastyle portico fronts the central mass. A fanlight and sidelights frame the doorway. Palladian windows are located in the links between the main house and wings. The face brick, called "Old Virginia" Jefferson size brick by the manufacturer, has Flemish bonding. The hip roof is covered with unusual tile shingles.

The "Garden Elevation" is a two-story replica of a Virginia manor house. The five-part plan has a brick facade with flemish bonding. The projecting main portion has a pedimented central door, with toothlike dentils, flanked by bay windows. The windows in the wings are 6/9 double-hung sash with flat arches. A palladian window with segmental pediment pierces the first floor of the hyphen. A French eclectic wall dormer is located on the second floor. Double band brick courses divide the two floors. Norton's initials, "GWN", are located on boxes at the top of the downspouts.

The north wing is called the "Service End." On the first floor, it consists of a kitchen, servants hall, and servants porch. There is an entrance to an underground three-car garage from the servants hall. On the second floor, there are three

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 5

## Fincastle Jefferson County, Kentucky

------

servants bedrooms and three bath rooms.

The south wing is called the "Living Room Elevation." On the first floor, the entire wing is composed of the living room. On the east wall, three steps lead up to double doors which open into the walled garden. Doors on the south wall open onto a living porch. On the second floor, the "Living Room" wing consists of the master bedroom, dressing room, and bath. A sleeping porch is located on the south wall. The hyphen between the living room wing and the main portion of the home consists of a circular sculpture room, and a small flower room and gun room.

On the first floor, the main unit of the home consists of the stair hall, gallery, dining room, library, and men's and women's dressing rooms and bath rooms. The second floor is composed of the entrance hall, three bed rooms, and a bath.

The elaborately decorated interior includes wood-paneled fireplace walls, a circular room, niches, light wells, various ceiling heights, wood plank floors, and a geometrical staircase. According to family tradition, the elaborate wood work found throughout the home was the accomplishment of an eighty year old German craftsman whose name has been forgotten. The fireplace wall in the library is a replica of one at Shirley Plantation, a nationally significant eighteenth century Virginia manor.

The only know alterations to the home include: the 1960s enclosure of the second floor sleeping porch located on the south elevation; and the addition of a sunroom at the hyphen and wing on the west elevation.

OMB No.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 6

# Fincastle Jefferson County, Kentucky

of the east elevation.

G. <u>Driveway</u> (contributing): A long and winding drive leads from Wolf Pen Branch Road to the house. The driveway traverses through manicured pastures and ends in a turnaround in front

- H. <u>Pastures</u> (contributing): The area between the house and Wolf Pen Branch Road consists of manicured pastures with sporadic trees.
- I. <u>Springhouse</u> (contributing): A concrete springhouse with a frame gable cover.
- J. <u>Entrance Court Wall</u> (contributing): Approximately 8'X90' brick half circle wall with niches.
- K. <u>Studio</u> (contributing): One-story, three-bay, flemish bond brick structure with projecting cross gable. The double door with fanlight is located in the cross gable. The eave-oriented gable roof is covered with slate shingles.
- L. Walled Garden and grass terrace (contributing): Double doors located on the east wall of the living room open on to a walled garden. The garden consists of four beds, brick herringbone pattern paving and seven foot tall brick walls with niches. A grass terrace with stairs leads down from the entrance court level to the walled garden.
- M. <u>Barn</u> (contributing): A small, frame, transverse crib barn with corrugated metal siding.
- N. <u>Greenhouse</u> (non-contributing): The small greenhouse was constructed in 1958. Though not contributing, it does not meet the age criteria, greenhouses were common components of Jefferson County "country estates."

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 7

# Fincastle Jefferson County, Kentucky

- O. <u>Swimming Pool</u> (non-contributing): Built in the 1960s, the swimming pool does not meet the age criteria of the National Register. Swimming pools were, however, common components of Jefferson County "country estates." In addition, the pool and bathhouse were designed by Anne Bruce Haldeman, a locally significant landscape architect known for her historic restoration work.
- P. <u>Bathhouse</u> (non-contributing): Built in the 1960s, the swimming pool does not meet the age criteria of the National Register. Bath houses were, however, common components of Jefferson County "country estates." In addition, the pool and bathhouse were designed by Anne Bruce Haldeman, a locally significant landscape architect known for her historic restoration work.
- Q. Formal Garden (contributing): The land west of the home drops off dramatically to Harrods Creek. A formal garden provides a buffer between the west or "Garden Elevation" of the home and the natural landscape. The garden consists of beds, outlined with bricks, and numerous boxwoods.

#### R. <u>Natural Landscape Features</u> (contributing):

The land behind the home drops off dramatically to Harrods Creek. This land, by design, was left in its natural state. Trees, sink holes, large rocks, an intermittent creek, and the large bend of Harrods Creek characterize the natural landscape.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 1

Fincastle Jefferson County, Kentucky

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

George Washington Norton, III was born in Louisville in 1902. He grew up in his fathers' large Georgian style home on Norton Hill, near Cherokee Park. Following his graduation from Yale, he entered Harvard University School of Law. After graduating, he returned to Louisville and in 1927 began practicing law with the firm Humphrey, Crawford and Middleton, becoming a partner in 1930. In 1928 he married Jane Lewis Morton. Jane was the sister of Kentucky senator Thruston B. Morton, chairman of the Republican National Committee. Mrs. Norton served on the Jefferson County School Board from 1944-1948 and published a novel, Blackbirds on the Lawn, in 1944. The couple had two children, Mary and George W. Norton, IV.

In 1933, Norton entered the broadcasting field by buying a radio station and renaming it WAVE. The station won numerous national awards. He constructed his home on Wolf Pen Branch Road, Fincastle, in 1937. In 1941, he left Louisville to serve in the United States Army Air Force in World War II. When he returned in 1944, he chose to leave his law career in order to devote full time to his broadcasting business. In 1947 he applied for a television license which was granted early the following year. His television station, WAVE, was the first in Kentucky; the first to broadcast the Kentucky Derby; and at the time of his death, in 1964, it had the largest broadcasting area of any station in the state. In addition to WAVE, Norton purchased two other broadcasting stations, WFIE in Evansville, Indiana (1956) and WFRV in Green Bay, Wisconsin (1961).

Besides his business achievement, Norton was active in many civic projects including: president of the Louisville Area Development Association; chairman of the Jefferson County Republican Committee; Louisville Chamber of Commerce; the Community Chest; trustee of the American Printing House for The Blind; director of Cave Hill, Inc.;

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 2

# Fincastle Jefferson County, Kentucky

director of Citizens Fidelity Bank & Trust Company; director of Louisville Cement Company; director of Commonwealth Life Insurance Company; director of Louisville Gas & Electric Company; and involvement in numerous projects associated with aviation facilities, education and religion.

Norton followed a long family tradition of being active in religious affairs: he was an active member of Broadway Baptist Church; served on the finance committee of the Baptist Theological Seminary; treasurer of the Southern Baptist Convention; and contributed \$25,000 to the Kentucky Baptist Hospital Fund Drive. In 1955 Norton was recognized for his "civic work, cultural stimulation, and business achievement" by being named Louisville's "Man of the Year."

According to his wife, farming was Norton's favorite hobby. He spent much of his spare time working on his Fincastle farm (Randles 63). His obituary reported that "Norton was a real and practical farmer, with two working farms in the eastern part of Jefferson County.... He had worked at manual labor on the farms and it wasn't unusual for him to be up in the dark morning to help at lambing time. He used to say that he had been a farmer since childhood."

George Washington Norton died in 1964, from complications that developed after he was injured in an automobile accident while vacationing in Jamaica. According to newspaper reports, his car went out of control and crashed into a stone wall. He is buried in Cave Hill Cemetery. The current owners obtained Norton's home, Fincastle, from his daughter, Mary Norton Shands in 1967.

Of all his civic and business accomplishments, Norton is probably best known for his broadcasting achievements. The construction of Fincastle corresponds to the period when Norton was first entering

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 3

\_\_\_\_\_\_

# Fincastle Jefferson County, Kentucky

the broadcasting field. He bought his first radio station, for example, in 1933. Just three year later, in 1936, he commissioned an architectural firm to design Fincastle. The firm he chose, as well as the form and style employed at Fincastle, reflect important social and cultural trends.

Following World War I, urban America expanded its cultural field-both outward to embrace a wider range of European areas and inward to recognize the achievements of Early American art. For example, in 1924 the Metropolitan Museum of Art opened an American wing, the institutional sanctioning of the country's indigenous culture. The opening of this museum collection, along with others in Philadelphia and Boston, provided the impetus for a wave of personal collecting in America. The first issue of Antiques appeared in Boston in 1922. Buying American decorative arts became fashionable, patriotic, and a good way to show one's bloodlines. The 1920s was the decade of mobility, of the automobile, the tramway, and the train. Moreover, between 1910 and 1920 many American cities underwent their greatest growth by annexation-experiencing a 25 percent increase in population in suburban areas. This extraordinary displacement of the population upset many American's sense of belonging. Not surprising, many embraced the traditions of their ancestors. By building a home in a regional idiom, with an architect who had established expertise in the style, the patron was able to identify more closely with their roots.

Norton chose the Chicago architectural firm of Ambrose C. Cramer. Cramer studied with the well known "great house" architect, David Adler. Adler was one of a number of distinguished architects who flourished in the time of the "great house." He was widely known and greatly admired. His profession knew him as one of the most gifted of the "great house" designers. A number of his houses were

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 4

# Fincastle Jefferson County, Kentucky

published in professional journals. Fincastle materially embodies Adler's influence on Cramer.

Adler was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 1882. He studied architecture at Princeton University, graduating in 1904. He studied for five years at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris. Adler was the house architect for the Chicago establishment. He built nothing but houses, town and country, mainly from 1912 to 1935. His homes are particularly known for their meticulously detailed interiors. A characteristic clearly seen at Fincastle.

Reflecting the fascination with the country's past, during the 1920s and 1930s American architects conducted numerous historical studies and documentation of American colonial architecture. These architects took great pride and enthusiasm in the study of buildings. Many acquired American their knowledge restorationists, through documentation of the buildings in their charge. Their books remain among the most important sources of drawings on Early American buildings. White Pine Series, Great Georgian Houses of America, and the many books written about American towns and buildings during the 1920s and 1930s were indicative of their commitment to the examination of indigenous types as sources for new work. Rexford Newcomb's Old Kentucky Architecture is a case in point. The volume was the result of thirteen years of field-work and research which culminated in 1927. One of the Kentucky homes documented by Newcomb was Ridgeway, the Federal home built for Churchill Humphrey at St. Matthews in 1805. It was Ridgeway that Cramer used to model the east elevation of Fincastle. It is not surprising then that Old Kentucky Architecture was among the numerous books in Adler's extensive library.

In addition to his library, Adler amassed a huge collection of postcards of the buildings he had visited. The books provided him

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 5

## Fincastle Jefferson County, Kentucky

with pictures and dimensioned drawings which he could pass on to the draftsman who would organize the first small-scale drawings of floor plans and elevations. Adler indisputably was one of the most original and creative of his profession. The styles of the past served him only as starting points. He copied details for authenticity, but he never copied a particular structure. He often combined the essence of many periods of a particular style, and sometimes added later elements, producing a unique Adler original that expressed the spirit of the style that had been his inspiration. In his zeal for harmony he planned the landscaping and often did the decoration and furnishing of the interiors to establish a compelling unity and grace.

Unlike his mentor, Cramer did not design the grounds at Fincastle. A well known local landscape architect, Ann Bruce Haldeman, was employed for the task. Haldeman was the granddaughter of Walter Haldeman (1821-1902), founder of the Louisville Courier-Journal and Louisville Times. Her father, Bruce Haldeman, was president of the Courier-Journal.

Ann Bruce is known for her landscape restoration work. Among her Kentucky landscape restoration projects were: My Old Kentucky Home at Bardstown; Shakertown at Pleasant Hill in Mercer County; Farmington the 19<sup>th</sup> century Speed family mansion in Jefferson County; and Locust Grove, the home of George Rogers Clark, in Jefferson County. She was also commissioned by Old Salem, Inc., to plan the restoration of the 18<sup>th</sup>-century Moravian church town at Winston-Salem, N.C., and to landscape and plant one of the restored houses. In her restoration projects, Haldeman employed flowers and shrubs in keeping with the period. This required hours of research to determine the types of plantings used in earlier times, and then searching for the plants.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 6

Fincastle
Jefferson County, Kentucky

After studying at the Kentucky Home School and Bennett College, Millbrook, N.Y., Haldeman studied at the Cambridge School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture, now part of Harvard. Before returning to Louisville in the 1934, she worked with a prominent Boston landscape architect, Fletcher Steele.

In 1973, Haldeman received the "Mrs. Oakleigh Thorne Medal" from the Garden Club of America for her "accomplishments in horticulture, conservation, and civic beautification." According to Haldeman" "The right plant for the right place... that's the thing that makes an attractive effect. If it looks as though nothing has been done, then you have a successful thing." At Fincastle, Haldeman designed the entrance court (J), the walled garden (L), the formal garden (Q), the pool (O), and the bathhouse (P).

Haldeman designed the formal landscape immediately surrounding the Norton home, the land beyond the home was, by design, left in a natural state. In fact, the contractor was responsible for protecting all trees twenty foot from the home by boxing them to a height of eight feet. The location for Fincastle was chosen for its natural features. The home is located on the highest point. The land behind the home falls sharply to Harrods It includes large trees, sinks holes, large outcroppings, and an intermittent creek. The house is tied to the natural landscape by terraces. Like the home and the formal the natural landscape features physically embody important social and cultural trends.

Fincastle is related to the "Country Estate" property type which was defined in the context, "Suburban Development in Louisville and Jefferson County 1869-1940" a part of the Louisville and Jefferson County MRA. According to the context, these estates integrate designed landscapes with architect designed residences in settings chosen for their natural features. The goal of the design was to

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 7

Fincastle
Jefferson County, Kentucky

create a pastoral environment by imposing order on the landscape, while respecting the natural features of the land. Elements such as streams and creeks played significant roles in the overall design concept. The designed landscapes offered seclusion from the outside world, while allowing for scenic vistas within the estate. The country estates developed in the twentieth century showed a propensity to design heavy screening and natural bordering of properties to completely block them from outside view.

According to the Louisville and Jefferson County, Kentucky MRA, "a County Estate is composed of two integrated elements: a primary residence, many times with dependencies, and a designed historic landscape. A formal garden is an optional component, favored in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, which links the two required elements by serving as an outdoor extension of the formal organization of rooms within the main dwelling [F II, pp. 1-2]." The context demonstrates that country estates were often sited to afford a scenic view but at the same time a great measure of privacy [F-II, p.2].

The property type description states, "a Country Estate is expected to be in its original location with its primary and many of its secondary buildings intact. Few alterations are to be expected to be found in these buildings, though building additions of high quality workmanship and materials are present with some examples. The site plan and landscaping are anticipated to be as originally designed, though mature with regard to the landscaping. An exception may be that formal gardens exist only in ruins [F-II, p.4]." According to the registration requirements, integrity of location and setting are essential for a country estate, since the essence of the property type is so much about the interrelationship of a house set in a designed landscape.

Fincastle meets National Register Criterion C in the areas of architecture and landscape architecture for the high quality and

OMB No.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 8

Fincastle
Jefferson County, Kentucky

high degree of integrity of the home as well as the designed landscape, which was designed by a locally significant landscape architect.

OMB No.

NPS Form 10-900-a 1024-0018 8-86)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 1

#### Fincastle

Jefferson County, Kentucky

#### **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Beers and Lanagan.

1879 Atlas of Jefferson and Oldham Counties Kentucky. Philadelphia, D.G. Beers & Co.

Brooks, Carolyn

1998 Country Estates of River Road National Register Nomination. Frankfort, Kentucky Heritage Council.

Brown, W.L. Lyons, JR,
Interview with Karen Hudson on August 18, 1999.

Cramer, Ambrose C.

- 1936 Specifications for Residence of Mr. George W. Norton JR. Near Wolf Pen Branch Road Jefferson County, Kentucky. Chicago, Ambrose C. Cramer, Inc.
- 1936 Architectural Drawings for Residence of Mr. George W. Norton JR. Near Wolf Pen Branch Road Jefferson County, Kentucky. Chicago, Ambrose C. Cramer, Inc.
- Keys, Leslee, Mark Thames and Joanne Weeter
  - 1988 Louisville and Jefferson County, Kentucky, Multiple Property Listing, National Register Nomination. Frankfort, Kentucky Heritage Council.
- Louisville Courier-Journal

"George W. Norton, Jr., Is "Man of Year," section 1, pg. 10. December 17, 1955.

"WAVE's President Norton Dies," section 1, pg. 1. February 14, 1964.

OMB No.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 2

#### Fincastle

### Jefferson County, Kentucky

"Norton, Civic and Political Leader, Dies. Section 1, pg. 12. February 14, 1964.

"George W. Norton, IV, Dies In Car Accident," section 2, pg.1. May 23, 1964.

"Miss Haldeman Teaches for Farmington," section 3, pg. 7. January 26, 1964.

"Miss Haldeman gets award," section B, pg. 5, 1973.

"Farmington: History is rescued, with an assist by Miss Haldeman," section G, pg. 1. April 1, 1979.

Neary, Donna, Daniel Carey and Leslee Keys

1991 Harrods Creek Historic District National Register Nomination. Frankfort, Kentucky Heritage Council.

Newton, Norman T.

1971 <u>Design on the Land: The Development of Landscape</u>
<u>Architecture</u>. Cambridge, Belknap Press of Harvard University.

Parrish, Charles E.

1972 Ridgeway National Register Nomination. Frankfort, Kentucky Heritage Council.

Pratt, Richard

1970 <u>David Adler</u>. New York, M. Evans and Company, Inc.

Randles, Raymond

1961 A Biography of the Norton Family. Masters thesis. Louisville, University of Louisville.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 10 Page 1

### Fincastle

Jefferson County, Kentucky

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

#### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Tract 1 and 2 as recorded in Jefferson County Deed Book 4140, Page 409, August 14, 1967.

#### BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The area proposed for listing in the National Register includes the resources that have historically been associated with Fincastle and that maintain historic integrity. The boundary utilizes current legal boundaries and visual barriers that mark a change in the historic character of the area.

