

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAY 23 1977
DATE ENTERED DEC 20 1977

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

Elmwood

AND/OR COMMON

Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

State Route South 55

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Springfield

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

2

STATE

Kentucky

CODE

COUNTY

Washington

CODE

229

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. Thomas Hale

STREET & NUMBER

State Route South 55

CITY, TOWN

Springfield

STATE

Kentucky

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Washington County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Springfield

STATE

Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky

DATE

1971

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Kentucky Heritage Commission

CITY, TOWN

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Elmwood, a residence constructed in 1851, is situated on a low rise 100 yards west of State Route South 55 (Lebanon Pike) and is one mile south of Springfield. Attribution for its design has traditionally been given to Major Thomas Lewinski, a Lexington architect who was responsible for designing several Italianate "villas" in central Kentucky. Symmetrical in plan, the house's central squared two-story mass is three bays wide and three bays long (see photo 2). This is flanked on north and south by recessed one story wings that are one bay wide and four and three bays long respectively (see photo 3). The house is constructed of brick with all exterior walls enriched by applied vertical panels of wood. The roofs of the two wings are hipped on three sides while the central portion is fully hipped. A square cupola originally adorned the latter, but was destroyed by a tornado in 1923. Exterior alterations also include the removal of shutters, and replacement of the original porch in the 1920's. The existing one is supported by four evenly spaced six-sided columns and spans the width of the central portion (see photo 1). The original porch encompassed all three sides and was supposedly treated with "Victorian" scroll-work.

The coupled windows of the east or main facade are cinquefoiled and harmonize with this facade's trefoiled panels. All other windows are rectangular with six-over-six panes and appropriately, the sides which they pierce are treated with strictly vertical panelling. The second porch and all eaves, excluding the west, have decorative brackets. The three chimneys set flush with the concealed brick walls had triple flues in their original state, but these have been altered to single flues.

Elmwood's interior has been substantially more altered than its exterior. The current owner has installed modern bathroom and kitchen facilities, but is carefully preserving all other interior elements -- many of which were damaged during the house's conversion into apartments in the 1950's. A pair of closed elliptical staircases rose from the lateral hall to the chambers above. That on the north was changed to a flight of straight steps in the 1870's and has since been closed off, as has the staircase leading from the second floor to the destroyed cupola. Separating the two rooms of the first story's core are sliding doors, a characteristic feature of Lewinski's residences. Wide Tudor arches separate the doorways of the central rooms from the lateral hall, and the south parlor from the library (see photo 4). A smaller Tudor arch frames the opening of the surviving elliptical staircase (see photo 5). These arches and other openings of Elmwood's interior are enriched with attenuated Gothic half-columns that are clustered in groups of three. Flooring throughout is of yellow poplar, but several rooms have been recovered with other woods. All interior plaster work has been removed except for an egg-and-dart band in the south parlor's cornice. Two original mantles with simplified Greek motifs remain: others have been replaced through the years reflecting the changing owners' tastes. No original out-buildings have survived.

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 type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input 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 1851

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Elmwood, while hardly magnificent in scale, is nevertheless a signal structure in Kentucky's physical heritage for it introduced to Washington County and the immediate region a type of elegant country house. The residence possesses historical significance as well, having served as the Union Army's headquarters prior to the Battle of Perryville, a decisive event in the War Between the States in Kentucky.

The house was built in 1851 for William S. Davison, son of Springfield's first merchant. Davison and his wife entertained lavishly in their new home. "Tragically, it was an elegant ball...that brought about the hosts' untimely deaths. The delicacies for the party were brought from Cincinnati and Louisville by wagon and stagecoach--the food was either contaminated or contained germs of a fatal disease."¹ Mr. and Mrs. Davison died within a few weeks of each other.

The attribution of Elmwood's design to Major Thomas Lewinski (1802-1882) seems most likely. A native of London, England, Lewinski received training in engineering while serving in the British army. Following a brief teaching position at the University of Louisville, he came to Lexington in 1842 and established a thriving architectural practice for several years. Clay Lancaster (who has written extensively on Kentucky's architectural history) has called Lewinski the leading advocate of the Italianate in Kentucky, and also credits him with having been the Commonwealth's "second real architect."² Although no documentation exists proving Lewinski's connections with the design of Elmwood, several factors do point to such. The house boasts several features that appear in other Lewinski residences including: the sliding doors of Elmwood's first-floor core that compare with those of the Edward Johnson House (1846, now part of the Sayre School) on North Limestone Street in Lexington; and with those of the residence known as Glengarry (1853) on the Newtown Pike in the same city. Also comparable are Elmwood's one-time twin elliptical staircases with those of Lewinski's 1856 reconstruction of Ashland, Henry Clay's home in Lexington. In addition, it is most probable that the architect would have been in the Springfield area since his second wife, Mary Watkins, had numerous family ties there.

¹ Mrs. E. O. Kelly, Jr. "Historic House Marker Dedication on June 3," Springfield, Ky.: The Springfield Sun, May 1, 1967.

² Clay Lancaster, "Major Thomas Lewinski: Emigre Architect in Kentucky " Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians, Vol. XI, No. 4 (December, 1952), p.13.

continued

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Kelly, Mrs. E. O. "Historic House Marker Dedication on June 3." Springfield, Kentucky: The Springfield Sun. May 1, 1967.
 Lancaster, Clay. "Major Thomas Lewinski: Emigre Architect in Kentucky," Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians, Vol. XI, No.4 (Dec.,1952). pp. 13-20.
 McElroy, Alice Blyth. Statements prepared for Mrs. E. O. Kelly, Jr., submitted to Dianne Wells, Chairman, Kentucky Historical Highway Marker Program, Frankfort, Kentucky, March, 1967.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 656400 4171380
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 C

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Daniel Kidd, Architectural Historian

March 24, 1977

ORGANIZATION

Kentucky Heritage Commission

TELEPHONE

STREET & NUMBER

104 Bridge Street

502-564-3741

CITY OR TOWN

Frankfort

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

Eldred W. Meltzer

TITLE

DATE

May 18, 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Wm. M. ...

DATE

12/20/77

ATTEST:

Charles ...

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

12 16 77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
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Elmwood
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

Elmwood was acquired by Hugh McElroy following the Davisons' deaths. During his ownership the house played a key role in the prelude to the Battle of Perryville, the only major battle of the War Between the States fought in Kentucky.

In 1862 the citizens of Louisville became much alarmed over the advance of Southern troops north through Kentucky. A large Union army was assembled in Louisville under General Buell and set out to meet the Southern troops. In the course of their march, which became difficult on account of the scarcity of water, they reached Springfield.

Hugh McElroy had just built a large pond south of his house and over an acre in size and because of this the Union troops decided to camp there. The residence was taken for General Buell's headquarters.... The General was interested in finding out where the water holes and springs in and around Perryville were located.³

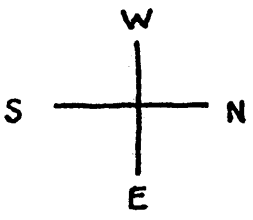
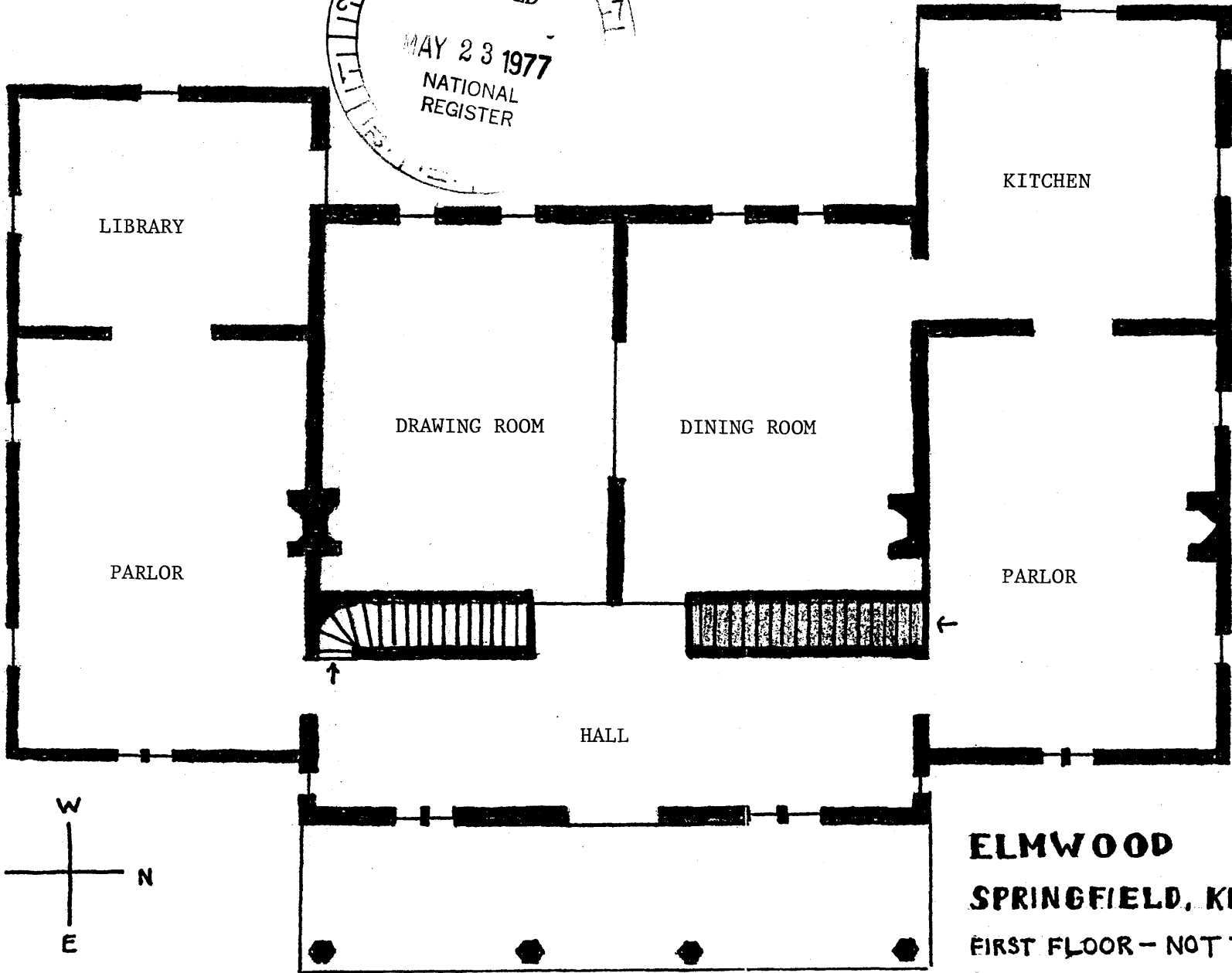
McElroy's son, Robert, was familiar with such. Legend states that he located these for General Buell on maps spread out in Elmwood's south parlor. The Union Army was aware that because of an unusual drought that Autumn of 1862, "the fight would be for water-holes. They thought whoever secured them would be able to maintain the position thus obtained."⁴ The outcome of the resulting Battle of Perryville was indecisive in certain respects: both armies suffered heavy losses and neither had a clear victory at the battle's conclusion. But the event did bring an end to the Confederate invasion of the State and to General Braxton Bragg's 1862 campaign to "liberate" Kentucky from the Union while raising troops and supplies for the Confederacy (for further details regarding the Battle of Perryville, see the H. P. Bottom House, Perryville, Boyle County, Kentucky--listed on the National Register January 1, 1976).

Today, all but several acres of Elmwood's originally large estate have been purchased by persons who have erected commercial establishments and contemporary housing. Some damage has occurred during changing ownerships, but the current residents are conducting a careful restoration. And because of its stark white color and striking geometrical massing, Elmwood stands out nevertheless from its various surroundings.

³ Alice Blythe McElroy.

⁴ Ibid.

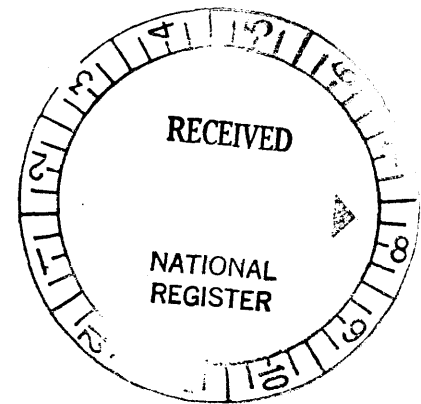
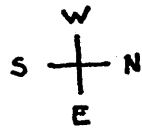
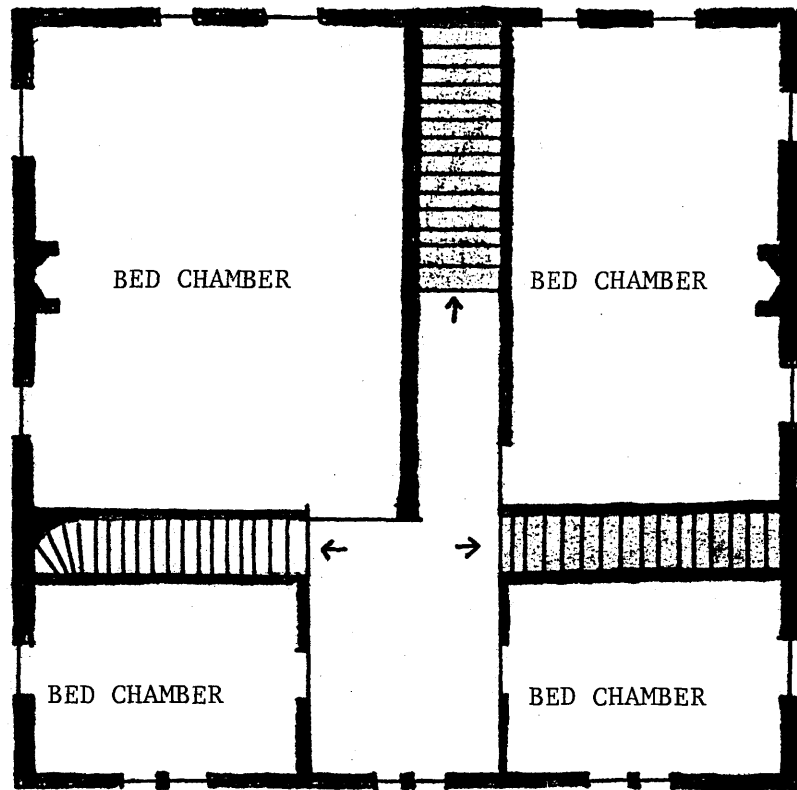
RECEIVED
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NATIONAL
REGISTER



**ELMWOOD
SPRINGFIELD, KENTUCKY**

FIRST FLOOR - NOT TO SCALE

 INDICATES CLOSED STAIRCASE



ELMWOOD

SECOND FLOOR - NOT TO SCALE

"Elmwood"
Springfield
Washington County
Kentucky

DEC 20 1977

Dan Kidd
No Scale, March 1977
Map 3. Sketch of 3rd floor.

"Elmwood"
Springfield, Kentucky
Washington County
U.S.G.S. Map
7.5 Minute Series

Springfield Quadrangle
1:2400 1972
UTM References
16/656/400 41/71/380

