

PH0663484

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY **DATA SHEET**

RECEIVED FEB 22 1978

DATE ENTERED SEP 6 1978

**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 Selema Hall

AND/OR COMMON Selema Hall/Chambers Farm

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER 2837 Riedling Drive

CITY, TOWN Louisville

STATE Kentucky

VICINITY OF

COUNTY Jefferson

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 3 and 4

CODE 021

CODE 111

**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"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Henry & Cecilia Reed

STREET & NUMBER 2837 Riedling Drive

CITY, TOWN Louisville

STATE Kentucky

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Jefferson County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER 527 West Jefferson

CITY, TOWN Louisville

STATE Kentucky

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE Survey of Historical Sites in Kentucky

DATE 1972

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Kentucky Heritage Commission

CITY, TOWN Frankfort

STATE Kentucky

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

# 7 DESCRIPTION

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

---

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Selema Hall is situated on a five acre tract in an area known as Riedling off of Brownsboro Road near Zorn Avenue in the eastern section of Louisville. The original tract consisted of over 500 acres but was broken down over the years to its current size. The current tract allows the structure an adequate site to preserve its character. The grounds have numerous old trees, plantings and gardens which add to the ambiance (Photo 9).

The house is of red brick and is built in the Flemish bond pattern. At one time, it was painted white, but this has weathered to a rosy hue. The main block is a large square with a hipped roof topped by a square monitor. A pair of interior chimneys are on both sides of the block. As the house is set on a raised basement, the main entrance is reached by a long flight of steps which lead to a square portico with a detailed balustrade. Pairs of fluted Ionic columns form the entry to the portico, and the doorway is framed by fluted Ionic pilasters. The door is flanked by sidelights and panels with volutes and rosettes of a type found in the pattern books of Minard Lafever. It is surmounted by a transom (Photos 1, 2, 3, 5, 6).

The windows on the first or basement story have stone sills and lintels and have eight-over-eight panes. The fenestration of the upper story consists of six-over-six paned openings with stone sills and lintels. The lintels on the main block are of an unusual type with panels and carved Grecian pattern in an elevated center square (Photo 4). All openings are flanked by louvered shutters. The entire structure is capped by an extended cornice underscored by brackets and dentils (Photo 4).

The rear of the house has a two-story wing on the west side. It is uncertain when this addition was made (Photo 8). A rear hall was also an addition at some point with a rear door similar to the front door but simplified (Photo 7).

The interior of the house has a simple plan with a wide central hall flanked by double parlors on the east and two chambers on the west. The staircase is unusual in that it rises from the lower floor in center of the rear portion of the hall. The stairwell opening is enclosed by finely articulated balustrades (Photo 12).

The rooms are spacious and light with high ceilings and boldly articulated woodwork with Greek Revival motifs (Photo 11, 12, 13). Both parlors have fine veined black/gray marble mantles with Ionic columns (Photo 10).

Frederick Morgan, an early twentieth-century architect from Louisville, was commissioned in about 1935 to work on the house. The extent of his work is not known. He may be responsible for the monitor, a reworking of the staircase and the wall moldings (Photo 12).

The structure is an interesting transition between the low Federal pavilion type such as Spring Station (National Register, Dec.1977) or Ridgeway (National Register 1973) in Jefferson County and the Greek Revival cube type as exemplified by the Barbour House (destroyed by a tornado in April, 1974).

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
___PREHISTORIC	___ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	___COMMUNITY PLANNING	___LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	___RELIGION
___1400-1499	___ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	___CONSERVATION	___LAW	___SCIENCE
___1500-1599	___AGRICULTURE	___ECONOMICS	___LITERATURE	___SCULPTURE
___1600-1699	X___ARCHITECTURE	___EDUCATION	___MILITARY	___SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
___1700-1799	___ART	___ENGINEERING	___MUSIC	___THEATER
X___1800-1899	XX___COMMERCE	___EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	___PHILOSOPHY	___TRANSPORTATION
___1900-	___COMMUNICATIONS	___INDUSTRY	___POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	___OTHER (SPECIFY)
		___INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1838

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Unknown

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Selema Hall is significant in the continuum of architectural history in Jefferson County as a unique structure. It exhibits characteristics of the Greek Revival style but represents motifs of earlier structures in Jefferson County, such as Spring Station (c. 1802), Farmington (1810), and Ridgeway (c. 1816). The raised basement on Selema Hall is used at Spring Station, Farmington, and also the Howard-Gettys House (c. 1837).

The land on which Selema Hall is built was originally part of the 1779 Southall and Charlton patent. Samuel Beall acquired a portion of this patent which included the site of Spring Station and Selema Hall. Beall's daughter, Harriet, acquired one-quarter interest in her father's land, and in 1823, 555 acres were allotted to Matilda A. Maupin, daughter of Harriet Beall and Richard A. Maupin. In 1828, Matilda A. Maupin, at her death, left 555 acres to her cousin, Norborne A. Galt, son of Matilda Beall and Dr. William C. Galt. In 1828, Norborne Galt built a structure, known as "Repton" and still extant, on a portion of the land west of the site of Selema Hall. In 1831, he sold to Elias Dorsey approximately 446 of the original tract given to him by Matilda Maupin. Dorsey sold it in 1835 to James C. Johnston and Asis Throckmorton, proprietor of The Galt House. In 1838, Throckmorton and others sold it to David Chambers. A study of the tax records of the owners of this property does not indicate whether or not there was a structure on the property when Chambers acquired it in 1838, but historical tradition maintains that Selema Hall was built by Chambers.

David Chambers (1787-1873) was born in Virginia and came to Louisville in 1817. He formed a wholesale dry goods company known as Wilson and Chambers and later was associated with William Garvin in Chambers and Garvin. Chambers was secretary of the Franklin Insurance Company and was also in the real estate business. He married a daughter of John Postlethwaite of Lexington, Kentucky. Chambers was a member of the Episcopal Church. Initially active at Christ Church, he later joined St. Paul's, where he had his funeral. He was honored as a prominent citizen of Louisville at the opening of the Industrial Exposition in 1872 as one of the oldest citizens to have helped bring prosperity to Louisville. One biographical account states that he "retired to a magnificent country seat" and adorned his residence and beautified his grounds.

In 1842, apparently in financial straits, Chambers sold the farm on which he resided to his partner, William Garvin. Garvin then sold it to a Robert Waterson in 1842. Waterson in turn sold it to Elizabeth Thompson, Mildred Ann Thompson, and Francis F. Thompson in 1842 with a mortgage release in 1845. The property remained in the Thompson family until 1911, when Anselan Buchanan, sold it to the Southern Baptist Seminary.

(continued)

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Jefferson County Deed Books.  
 Jefferson County Will Books.  
Louisville Past and Present, Louisville: J. M. Joblin. 1876.  
Jefferson County Tax Records, 1835, 1836, 1837, 1839, 1840.  
Preservation Plan, Falls of the Ohio Metropolitan Council of Governments,  
 Washington, D.C., Housing and Urban Development, 1973.

(continued)

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 5

UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>6</u> <u>1</u> <u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u>	B	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	D	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Block 88-E, Lot 6  
 City of Louisville, Kentucky

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

Elizabeth F. Jones, Research Director

Assisted by Kathy Bunger,  
 Volunteer

ORGANIZATION

Landmarks Commission

DATE

December 7, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

727 West Main Street

TELEPHONE

587-3501

CITY OR TOWN

Louisville

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

*Edward W. Melton*

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 2-15-78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*[Signature]*

DATE 9-6-78

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST *[Signature]*

DATE 8-29-78

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	
RECEIVED	FEB 22 1978
DATE ENTERED	SEP 6 1978

CONTINUATION SHEET    Selema Hall    ITEM NUMBER 8    PAGE 2

---

In the will of Mildred Ann Thompson in 1880 is the first instance known that the structure is referred to as a "Selema Hall." The source for this name is unknown, and over the years the spelling has changed. Mr. Francis Thorton Thompson received prizes from the Kentucky State Fair Association for his beautiful osage orange hedges on the property.

In 1922, R. D. Riedling acquired the property and subsequently subdivided the property. After several owners, the current occupants acquired the residence in 1944.

The residence is a gracious blend of architectural styles including Federal and Greek Revival. It is not a pure style but exhibits many architectural motifs found in this region. This composite of elements achieved a unique residence in Jefferson County with the charm and grandeur of the mid-nineteenth century. As the residence of one of Louisville's prominent nineteenth-century commercial magnates, Selema Hall is important both historically and architecturally in the development of Kentucky.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	FEB 24 1978
DATE ENTERED	SEP 6 1978

CONTINUATION SHEET Selema Hall ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

---

Thompson, Reg., Mrs., Old Homes of the Beargrass, n.p.n.d.  
"Another Landmark Gone," Courier-Journal, 15 March, 1873, p. 4, col. 3 (Obit. of  
David Chambers).  
Courier-Journal, 14 March 1873, p. 2, col. 4.  
The Louisville Times, 25 January 1938, Walter Kiser sketch.

GEORGE C. TRAGER  
 JEFFERSON COUNTY TAX COMM'R  
 W. J. SCHRECK - CHIEF DRAFTSMAN  
 DRAWN 5-20-53 W.G.

COUNTY BLKS. - 16-  
 CITY BLKS. - 2864-1  
 -2704-2918-2920-1  
 -2705



-1-P.B. 912 MC ALISTER'S EASTERN SUBDIVISION P.B. 5 P. 93  
 LOTS 1 TO 16 INC. SOLD AS SUB. LOTS;  
 REMAINDER OF SUB. SOLD BY METES  
 AND BOUNDS

DD-F

Selema Hall  
2837 Riedling Drive  
Louisville, Jefferson, Kentuck  
Sanborn Map Co.  
Map 1. Sanborn map showing

present site of Selema Hall.

SEP 6 1978

FEB 22 1978



Scale 1/2 Inches to the Mile.



**ST. MATTHEWS**  
JEFFERSON CO.  
Scale 3/4 Rods to the Inch.  
D. Gilman

Map details and additional names in the lower right corner:  
Mrs. P. H. ...  
Mrs. P. Hildebrand ...  
A. Vogt ...  
E. J. Hildebrand ...  
J. Kerr ...  
J. O. Aham ...  
C. Snytel ...  
Mrs. P. Hildebrand ...  
A. Vogt ...  
W. Vernon ...  
E. J. Hildebrand ...

Selema Hall  
2837 Riedling Drive  
Louisville, Jefferson, Ky.

1879 Atlas of Jefferson County

Map 2. Map of Selema Hall site  
in 1879.

SEP 6 1978 .

FEB 22 1978