

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**DATA SHEET**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED NOV 9 1976

DATE ENTERED MAY 19 1976

**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

Herr-Rudy Family Houses

AND/OR COMMON

Same

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

520 Old Stone Lane, Y 319 + 4477 Westport Rd,  
H 204 612 Rudy Lane 776 Westport Rd, 1825 Boulevard  
H 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10

Multiple Addresses (see continuation sheet)

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Louisville

VICINITY OF

3 and 4

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Kentucky

021

Jefferson

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"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> 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(S)
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Multiple Owners (see continuation sheet)

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Jefferson County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Jefferson Street

CITY, TOWN

Louisville

STATE

Kentucky

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky (Supplement)

DATE

1975

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Kentucky Heritage Commission

CITY, TOWN

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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

The Herr-Rudy family houses consist of six stone or brick residences built between 1790 and 1825, as well as an 1877 house, built to replace an earlier structure, and eight outbuildings. Although each house is surrounded by a modern subdivision, four of them retain spacious lots with large trees and plantings that shelter them from the encroaching development. The remaining three sites on smaller lots, have kept their residential integrity, becoming focal points of their neighborhoods.

#### Daniel Rudy House

The Daniel Rudy House is located about 1/8 mile north of Rudy Lane and is reached by a narrow, shaded gravel lane. It is situated on a ridge amidst 18 1/2 acres of undeveloped land. The perimeter of the property is lined with trees.

The house is a five-bay, one-and-a-half-story stone structure with a 1 1/2-story frame addition off the north end of the west side. Interior stone chimneys, that have been raised with brick courses, are located at the ends of the main block (see photos 1 and 3). A narrow exterior chimney is placed in the center of the west wall of the frame addition. The front entrance is centered in the facade and has an elliptical fanlight and two-pane sidelights. The glass around the door is tinted blue (see photo 2). The two windows on the north side of the front door, which are located in the original section c. 1790, have two-over-two pane sash. The openings sit very low to the ground and have keystone arches above. The south bay openings, with two-over-two pane sash, stone sills, and no lintels, are placed about a foot and a half above ground level. The present front entrance and the south section of the house were added about 1810.

Interrupting the roofline of the house in the front and back are short, wide dormers that were added in the 20th century. The peak of the gable end of the frame addition is visible in the front roofline. The steeply pitched roof of the frame section gives it an unusual appearance, being one-and-a-half story on the side and a full two stories on the west end (see photos 5 and 6). Adjoining the frame addition is the original brick kitchen, which was separated from the house, but is now attached to the stone block by a narrow brick passage that also opens onto the frame section (see photo 4). A modern frame garage is attached to the west side of the kitchen and is connected to it by a breezeway on the south side of the kitchen. A shed porch that was originally located on the south side of the addition and the stone section was altered to create an enclosed glass sun porch (see photos 5 and 6).

(continued)

# 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES (see below)

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Situated in a three-mile radius within an eastern Louisville suburb are seven houses constructed by or for John Herr, his guardian Jacob Reedy, and their descendants between 1790 and 1877. John Herr (1771-1842) came to Kentucky as an orphan in 1783 and eventually accumulated a vast amount of property and wealth. Herr, as a prosperous and respected early settler of the area, established his children in houses on farms immediately surrounding his own property. These children intermarried with members of other prominent early families in the area, including the Rudys, Taylors, Hites, Simcoes, Edwards, Shirleys, and Arterburns, as well as the Todds of Lexington, and sometimes enlarged their already-existing dwellings as time went on. Remarkably, seven of these residences and a number of outbuildings still exist. Although now submerged in modern subdivisions, the houses themselves have suffered relatively few alterations and additions in the last century. Moreover, of the establishments in the area belonging to members of the Herr family shown on an 1879 Atlas, only one or two have been lost. Thus, these buildings, with their early associations, represent almost a century of a single family's architectural (or constructional--since most were surely the products of skilled builders, not architects) patronage, ranging from the stone "fort" or "cabin" of 1790 through a series of plain but fine houses in the Federal style, to the full-blown Victorian farm "mansion" of 1877.

Even the twentieth-century alterations--some made for descendants of the Herrs--reflect a continuity of taste and respect for the original fabrics.

John Herr, a native of Pennsylvania, was the son of Michael Herr (1748-1778), a Revolutionary War soldier who died in battle. In 1783 at the age of twelve, John Herr accompanied his father's friend, Jacob Rudy, and his family down the Ohio River to the Falls (now Louisville). Jacob Rudy (1751-1841), a Revolutionary War soldier and farmer, settled on a tract of land east of Louisville, and built a large log house over a spring, which was located about 1/4 mile west of the John Herr House.

(continued)

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Atlas of Jefferson and Oldham Counties, Kentucky. Philadelphia: Beers and Lanagan, 1879.

Ford, Henry A., and Kate. History of the Ohio Falls Cities and their Counties. Cleveland: L. A. Williams & Co., 1882.

(continued)

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately 67 \* See Map + Cont. Sheet 12-29-76

\* UTM REFERENCES (see continuation sheet)

A	_____	_____	_____
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

B	_____	_____	_____
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

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

Mary Cronan Oppel, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Kentucky Heritage Commission

DATE

October 1976

STREET & NUMBER

104 Bridge Street

TELEPHONE

(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. Yunker*

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 11/3/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ATTEST:

*Charles A. ...*  
DIRECTIONS OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

5/19/78

REGISTER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

5-5-78

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Herr-Rudy Family Houses

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- ✓ Daniel Rudy House, 520 Old Stone Lane
- ✓ Edwards-Herr House, 4417 Westport Road
- ✓ John Herr House, 726 Waterford Road
- ✓ Vulcan Rudy House, 4319 Westport Road
- ✓ George Herr House, 612 Rudy Lane
- ✓ Taylor-Herr-Oldham House, 1823 Ballard Mill Lane
- A.G.  
✓ John Herr, Jr., House, 1705 Lynn Way

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Daniel Rudy House - Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Clark, III, 520 Old Stone Lane, Louisville  
40207

Edwards-Herr House - Mrs. Ann Hite Corn, 4417 Westport Road, Louisville 40207  
Mrs. Helen Hite Sallee

John Herr House - Mr. and Mrs. D. I. Renau, 726 Waterford Road, Louisville 40207

John Herr Smokehouse and Springhouse - Mr. and Mrs. Merritt E. Marcus, 724  
Waterford Road, Louisville 40207

Vulcan Rudy House - Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Deem, 4319 Westport Road, Louisville 40207

George Herr House - Mr. and Mrs. J. Paul Keith, Jr., 612 Rudy Lane, Louisville 40207

Taylor-Herr-Oldham House - The Episcopal Church Diocese of Kentucky, 421 S.  
Second Street, Louisville

A.C.

~~John~~ Herr, Jr., House - Mrs. Robert C. Leason, 1705 Lynn Way, Louisville 40222

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The present layout of the house consists of a central hall with a room off each side in the main stone block. The room on the north, which is the original portion of the house, is two steps down from the hall. Located in the northwest side of the room is a tremendous fireplace with a beam across the top for a mantel. The chair-railing remains in the room. It appears that the entrance into the original one-room stone cabin was located where the second window of the facade is placed. Evidence of its stone sill remains.

The room on the south side is two steps up from the central hall. Although this portion was added c. 1810, the original mantel has been replaced by a fine Victorian gray marble mantel with shelf. Located in the hall is a beaded board staircase that leads to the two bedrooms over the stone block and the room in the addition.

A frame outbuilding built in the late 19th or early 20th century is located west of the house.

John Herr House

Located on a one acre, tree-shaded lot in the middle of a subdivision is the John Herr house. It faces north toward Brownsboro Road or U.S. Highway 42, which was for many years the major land route connecting Louisville and Cincinnati.

Over the years the John Herr house has undergone several major additions and alterations, reflecting the growth and change of the families who have resided there. The original portion of the house, which is believed to date from 1795, is the two-bay, two-story brick section, situated south of the main block. In this section the brick is laid in Flemish bond on a stone foundation. This block has a belt course that extends around three sides and a shallow water table on the south wall. The windows have six-over-six panes, although the attic window, placed in the peak of the gable on the south side, has six-over-twelve, which may indicate that the lower sash is original and that the others have been altered. Interior brick chimneys with corbelled tops are located in the center of the east and west sides. A one-story screened-in porch with a shed roof has been added to the east side of the original portion (see photo 8).

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It is believed that the front section of the house was built around 1852 by Herr's daughter and her husband, Norburn Arterburn. It is a five-bay, two-story brick structure with interior brick end chimneys with corbelled tops. A hallway that runs east-west connects the original portion of the house with the present main block. The main entrance, placed in the central bay, has narrow seven pane sidelights and a transom above. Greek "ears" decorate the door molding. A one-bay, one-story porch supported by fluted Ionic columns, shelters the entrance. The windows have six-over-six pane sash with stone sills below. Lookout windows are placed in the gable ends (see photo 7).

The interior of the 1850s addition consists of a room off each side of the central hall. The window and door moldings in this section reflect the Greek "ear" moldings around the front entrance. Instead of the main staircase being located in the central hall, a circular stair was situated in the northeast corner of the back cross hall. These stairs were replaced by an open well, two-run stair on the north side of the rear hall. On the second floor, in the southwest corner room of the original portion, there is an original Federal mantel with small ovals in the end panels and a larger oval in the raised center panel. The shelf is supported by paired columns. In this room there is evidence that a stairway from the first floor opened onto the second, along the south wall.

Located directly behind the house (south) is a split level brick outbuilding. The lower portion served as a springhouse, and later perhaps as a wash house as well. The ground level floor served as servants quarters. It has three bays with a door in the center. The windows have four-over-four pane sash. A brick chimney is located in the center of the west wall. A porch with a shed roof supported by two short posts on brick piers extends across the front, while in back, the roof sweeps down dramatically, forming a shelter (see photos 10 and 11). Southeast of the house is a brick smokehouse, built on a stone foundation (see photo 12). The Herr-Arterburn family cemetery is located a hundred yards north of the house, but it is now engulfed by modern houses.

*Cemetery not included.  
9/15/78 R. Ashman*

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Edwards-Herr House

The Edwards-Herr house, located in a bend of Westport Road, is situated at the end of a tree-lined drive. Fifteen acres of wooded land surround the house (see photo 13).

The house is a five-bay, two-story brick structure with a one-story wing off the rear to the east, which was added c. 1900. Interior brick chimneys are located at the end of the main block. The brick is laid in Flemish bond in front and common bond on the sides. The front entrance, centered in the facade, originally had an eight-light transom, with two rows of four lights. In the 1900s the entrance was altered and ten-pane sidelights were added (see photos 13 and 14).

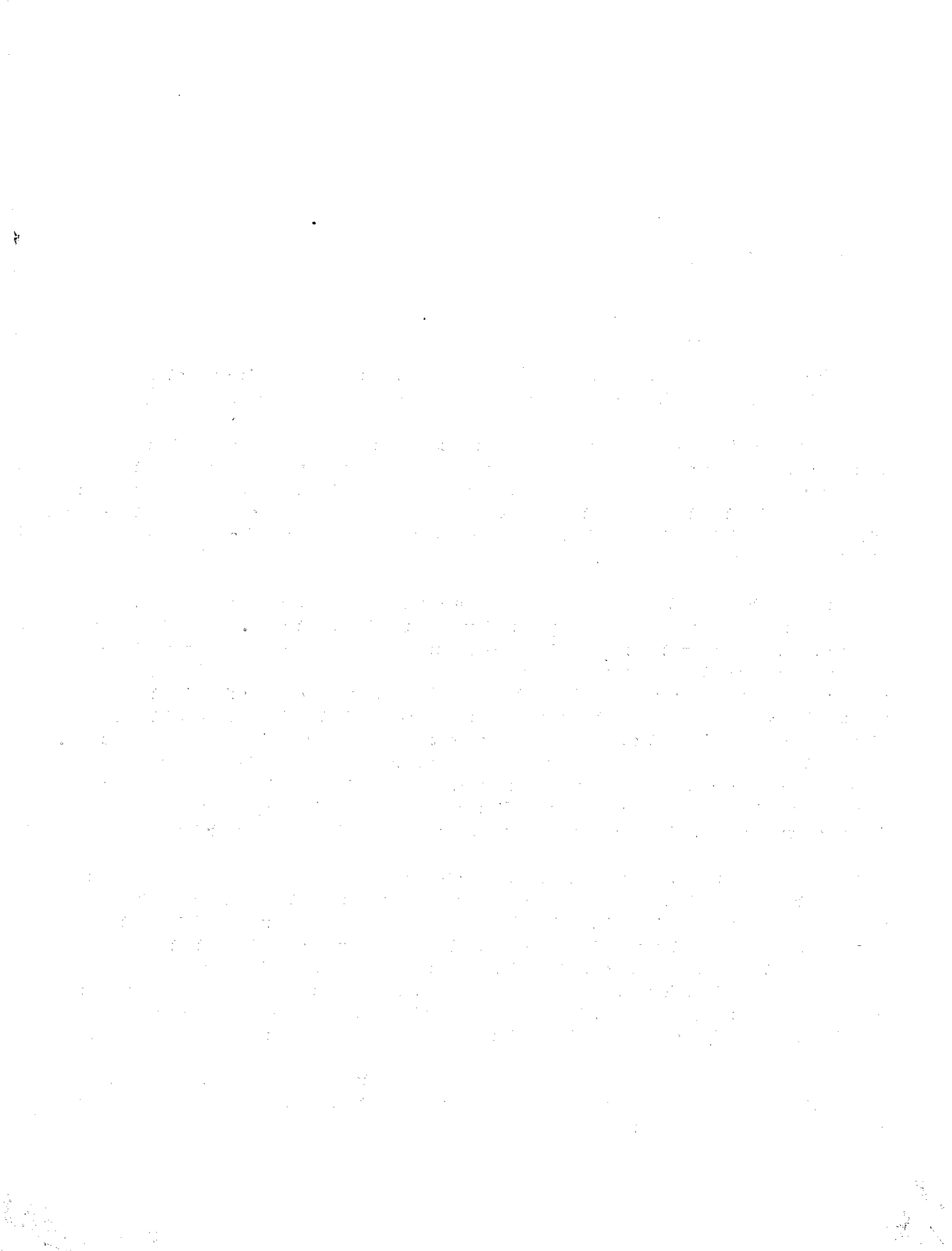
A photograph taken in the 1890s shows the house with a one-story porch supported by turned posts and crowned by a pediment, framing the front entrance. An earlier photo (15) illustrates the house without a porch. The shuttered windows have nine-over-six-pane sash with narrow stone sills and jack arches above. Small rectangular louvered vents are placed below the facade openings at ground level to allow ventilation for the basement. A plain box cornice extends across the facade. In the foreground of the 1890s picture is a stone fence that evidently replaced the earlier plank fence seen in photo 14.

As these photographs show, the house was given a rather heavy Neo-Georgian character by the early 20th-century alterations, which also included an enlarged cornice and eaveboards, stone lintels, and a huge five-bay porch across the front, as well as interior changes such as the widening of doors downstairs.

The house is built on the two-room central-hall plan. The rooms off each side of the hall are twenty-one feet square. In each room is a mantel with a shelf and simple molding around the opening of the fireplace. A recessed horizontal panel is centered between the shelf and the molding (see photo 18). The staircase rising to the second floor is located on the northeast side of the central hall. It has low, wide risers and a full landing. Light from the window in the center bay of the second floor illuminates the landing (see photo 19). The stringers are decorated with a hand-carved variation of a scroll with a deeply carved "V" fitting into and above a bend of the scroll (see photo 20).

The doors in the Edwards-Herr house have six horizontal panels graduated in width (see photo 21). The original wide ash floor remains intact on the first floor, as does the original pine floor on the second floor.

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The Herr-Hite family cemetery is located on the property and is enclosed by an iron fence. The remains of a stone springhouse also exist two hundred yards north of the house. The outline of the old Westport Road, that ran by the springhouse, can still be seen.

*cemetery not included Braun 9/13/78*

Vulcan Rudy House

The Vulcan Rudy House is located about two hundred yards north of Westport Road on a six and a half acre tract of land. Like the other Herr houses it too is surrounded by large trees.

The house was built around 1820 and has had at least one early major addition made, probably, during the 1850s. The Vulcan Rudy house is a five-bay, two-story brick house. The brick is laid in Flemish bond on the front and common on the sides. Double interior brick chimneys are located in the west wall and a single interior brick chimney is centered in the east end. The windows have nine-over-six pane sash with stone lintels below and jack arches above. Spanning the center three bays of the facade is a large one-story screened-in porch, raised one and a half feet above ground on a cement foundation. Four stout piers support the porch. A plain box cornice, returned at the ends, extends across the facade (see photo 22). The front entrance, centered in the facade, has sidelights and a transom framed by Corinthian columns. The entrance was probably altered when the 1850s addition was made, or perhaps at a much later date.

Originally the house appears to have been a two-story structure one-room deep, with a two-room central hall plan. At a later date the roof was raised over the two bays on the west end to allow for a third floor or attic, and another room on the first and second floor was added behind the original front room (see photo 23).

The front entrance, which is located in the original section, opens onto a hall with a rounded stair placed in the northeast corner. Off the hall to the east is the dining room which is eighteen feet square. There is evidence in this room of a former stairway

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that lead to the bedroom above, which originally had no doorway leading into the rest of the house. This seems to indicate that it was used as a traveler's room.

On the west side of the hall, where the addition was made, is a double parlor with Greek Revival woodwork. At one time there was a door in the west wall of the back parlor which lead outside. The floors on the first floor are the original ash and those on the second are pine.

Located 100 feet behind the house to the north is a brick slave quarters that has been enlarged to make a modest house. Up until the mid 1900s, several other brick outbuildings remained intact.

George Herr House

*George Herr House  
Bullock  
9/13/77*

Located on a small road that runs off Rudy Lane, is the George Herr house. The house sits on a rise, surrounded by trees and plantings. The twenty-five acres that compose the estate isolate the house from the more recent developments. At one point the tract adjoins the Daniel Rudy house property.

The George Herr house is a five-bay, two-story brick structure with a one-story wing off the rear of the main block. The one-story wing on the east side of the main block was built in 1945, on top of the stone foundation of a one-and-a-half story frame kitchen, that had been removed (see photo 28). The brick in the front of the house is laid in Flemish bond and has queen closers while the back and sides have common bonding. Interior brick chimneys with corbelled tops are located at the ends of the main section and the south wall of the rear wing. A brick dentillated cornice with a raised stringer course below spans the facade (see photos 25 and 26).

The front entrance, which is located in the center bay, has a five-light transom. The door, itself, is composed of five horizontal panels that are graduated in size. The windows on the first floor of the house have nine-over-six pane sash, while the second floor openings have six-over-six. All the windows have stone lintels below and jack arches above. Shutters flank the front windows and the main entrance. The four narrow

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rectangular vent windows, placed at ground level of the facade, permit light and air into the basement. Louvered lookout windows are located high in the gable ends of the house on each side of the chimneys. A 1945 photograph (# 30) indicates that a one-story shed porch, supported on four turned posts extended across the back of the structure. This porch has been enclosed by glass (see photo 29).

The floor plan of the George Herr house is composed of two rooms off a central hall. Each room is 18 x 18. The dining room on the east side of the hall has a tall mantel with a plain shelf on paneled end blocks, supported by engaged Tuscan columns on pedestals. The original chair-railing extends around the room. A door in the east wall opens onto the kitchen and a door on the south, originally opened outside, but now gives access to the glass enclosed porch. Located on the southwest side of the room was an enclosed staircase that led to the second floor bedroom above. This room was cut off from the rest of the house, which seems to indicate that it served as a traveler's room. In the 1940s, the stairway was removed and a door was placed in the west wall of the upstairs room to allow access to the rest of the upstairs.

The parlor on the west side of the hall has a similar mantel, as that in the dining room, and also retains the chair-railing. A door in the south wall leads into the one-story wing, which contains a bathroom and a bedroom with a fireplace.

The main staircase, rising to the second floor, is located on the southeast side of the central hall. It was originally enclosed with beaded boards, but was opened to allow more space in 1945. Opposite the front door in the hall is an identical five paneled door with transom, that leads to the enclosed back porch.

A stone smokehouse is located about twenty feet southeast of the house, and a two room stone springhouse is placed at the bottom of the hill in front of the house (see photos 30 & 31). The outline of the rectangular ice house remains a hundred yards south of the house, as does the Herr family cemetery. A large obelisk in the center of the plot marks the grave of George Herr.

*Cemetery enclosed*

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Taylor-Herr-Oldham House

The Taylor-Herr-Oldham house is situated on a small rise about 1/4 mile north of Brownsboro Road. The eighty acres which surround the house have just recently been developed with upper middle class housing. Although the new structures press close, the house's integrity is retained by its prominent location and the large trees. The original block of the house became a small portion of the structure, when in 1940, an expansive addition was made to the east. The new east wing was designed by Frederick Morgan, a Louisville architect, known for his traditional designs and adaptations.

The original section of the house is the block on the west end that faces west. It is a three-bay, two-story brick structure with interior brick end chimneys. The brick is laid in common bond. The front entrance, in the center bay, is simple with no ornamentation. The door is modern, having panes of glass in the upper portion. It is framed by a one-story porch with a small pediment, on two thin posts (see photo 33).

The house essentially retains the hall and parlor floor plan upon which it was originally based. The front door opens onto a large room with a fireplace at the south end. The partition, dividing the first floor into two, is immediately to the left of the door. At this time there is no door in the center partition leading to the room on the north side, although there must have been one originally. The staircase, rising to the second floor, has also been removed, making the two upstairs rooms in the original section, accessible only from the 1940s addition.

In 1940, the owners procured the architect, Frederick Morgan, to design an addition. It joins the back of the original block and is set back from the south end wall of it. The present main entrance is placed in the gable end which faces south. The entrance has a triangular pediment over the door and a small window above with a circular opening in the peak of the gable. A small round arched window, flanked by arched shutters, giving it a Palladian effect, is immediately to the right of the door, centered between the first and second floors. Extending east of the gable end, and slightly recessed is a four-bay 2 1/2 story wing with dormers (see photo 34).

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The front entrance opens onto a large foyer with the two rooms of the old section accessible on the west, and a large living room opening on the east. The staircase is in the southeast corner of the hall with the light from the round arch window illuminating the landing.

Although the design of the addition is in keeping with the period of the original block, it has a grander, more elaborate tone, more like a house that would be found in Virginia, rather than in Kentucky.

A. G. Herr House

The A. G. Herr house, once the center of the two hundred and six acre estate known as Magnolia Stock farm, is now the center of a 1950s or '60s subdivision. The house is situated in the highest point and has many large trees remaining in the front yard.

According to tradition, either an earlier Herr house was incorporated into the present structure, or it was built with the bricks from an older Herr house, although there is little or no evidence to indicate this. The present house, built in 1877, is a five-bay, two-story brick structure on a stone foundation. On the north side of the house is a one-story brick wing on a high stone foundation, with a screened-in porch on the west side. Double interior brick chimneys are placed in the north and south walls of the main block. A wide bracketed cornice with dentils extends around the entire structure (see photo 35).

The main entrance, centered in the facade, is deeply recessed and has a round arched transom above the door. The long narrow windows have two-over-two pane sash with stone lintels below. There are paired windows above the front door. Triangular pediments are placed above the first floor windows, while segmental pediments are above the second floor openings. Narrow rectangular vent openings are located at the ground level, below the first floor windows. The three-bay, one-story castiron porch in the center of the facade was added in 1960 and replaces the original frame porch with the trefoil design and balustrade, as illustrated in photo # 37. (This appears to be the only major change to the house since it was constructed in 1877.) The original two-bay porch on the south side of the house remains intact, although it no longer has a balustrade (see photos 36 and 38).

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In the back of the house (east) the windows have no lintels or arches above. Rectangular ventilators are placed under the cornice, in line with the lower openings. A plain one-story porch on narrow posts shelters the back entrance (see photo 39).

The house has a central hall with two rooms off each side of the hall. Fireplaces are located in each room. The single flight of stairs is located on the north wall of the central hall. The first floors are of ash and the second floors are of pine.

The brick smokehouse with the sawtooth trim, which is pictured in the right of the house in the 1882 lithograph in the History of the Ohio Falls Cities, is in excellent condition (see photos 37 and 40). Located on the northwest side of the house is a stone cabin, which may date from 1790 when the location was the site of an earlier house (see photo 41). Also dating from an earlier period are the two brick slave quarters that are terraced down the slope behind the house (see photo 42). These brick structures have been altered. Unfortunately, the barns, fences, and other outbuildings pictured in the lithograph have been destroyed.



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Taylor-Herr-Oldham House

In 1940 an ambitious Georgian Revival wing was added to the small rectangular block of the Taylor-Herr-Oldham House. The new section, which now dominates, also reoriented the entrance from the west to the south. It is the bare south fireplace wall of the original building that forms part of the new composition. The new entrance-- an impressive Ionic aedicule with modillioned pediment --seems squeezed next to the southeast corner of the old house. Above the entrance is a six-over-six-pane window with keystone and shutters; above that is a radiating bullseye window in the broad gable, which repeats the slope of the south end of the old house. A round-arched stairway window, at a level halfway between the entrance and the second-story window, provides another rhythmic accent. In spite of these varied openings, however, there is a good deal of plain brick surface on their intermediary section, which houses the entrance hall, stairs, and other circulation spaces.

Set back to the right is the main wing of the new house, a long three-bay unit housing the sunken drawing room with master bedroom above. Another large wing containing the formal diningroom, service areas, and other bedrooms, extends northward from the new front.

The architect, Fredric L. Morgan of Louisville, has ingeniously incorporated the old in the new, allowing the original facade to be viewed as a separate entity from the west (although a square one-story Greek Revival portico shown in an old photograph was replaced by a smaller "Federal" porch). The new sections are far more architecturally pretentious than the original modest house, but the whole forms an interesting design in its own right. Morgan was noted for his sympathetic reuse of traditional motifs. Here he combines sophisticated details based on historic models with fine craftsmanship--there are many imaginative yet "authentic" features inside as well to produce an example of creative, if eclectic, preservation.

The Daniel Rudy, Edwards-Herr, Vulcan Rudy, and George Herr Houses, are completely surrounded by modern subdivisions. The nominated land around these farmhouses, not only isolate them from encroaching development, but reflects the original landscape and its use as farmland. The nominated acreage in each case is part of the historic property and contributes to the aesthetic and environmental setting of each house.

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Daniel Rudy House

In 1790 Rudy built a one-and-a-half story stone cabin for his oldest son, Daniel Rudy (1775-1850), upon his marriage to Mary Shively. Here they raised nine children. In order to accommodate the growing family, the house was expanded to its approximate present size in 1810. A new stone wing was added at a slightly higher level than that of the original portion, with the discrepancy somewhat disguised by a handsome elliptically-fanlit doorway into the hall between the two sections. This entrance closely resembles that of the Head House (ca. 1804, listed on the National Register January 28, 1974), in nearby Middletown, farther east in Jefferson County. An early brick kitchen wing has also been incorporated in the gradual enlargement of the service ell, giving a picturesque character to the whole house, which is still set in extensive undeveloped grounds. The house was named "Microphylla," after the name of a white rambling rose that grows on the south side.

At Daniel's death in 1850 his property was left to his son, John C. Rudy. J. C. Rudy, born in 1822, was a prosperous farmer and held the office of magistrate eight or ten years. In 1852 he married Priscilla Herr, daughter of George Herr. Rudy is listed as the owner on the 1856 and 1879 maps of Jefferson County. The house remained in the Rudy family until 1931.

Daniel Rudy's daughter, Lydia, born in 1800, married Thomas Wines Hubbard, a native of England who lived in New York before coming to Kentucky during the War of 1812. Hubbard, a cabinetmaker by trade, built several of the houses in the area, possibly the George Herr and Vulcan Rudy properties.

John Herr House

In 1795 John Herr married Jacob Rudy's daughter, Elizabeth Susan. For a short time they resided with Rudy in his log house, until John built a two-bay, two-and-a-half story brick house with a belt course and water table, 1/4 mile east of the Rudy house. He also constructed a brick springhouse and smokehouse which remain intact today.

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(The original portion of this house is very similar to Springfield (Zachary Taylor House) listed on the National Register prior to the 1966 Preservation Act, which is located about a mile and a half north of the Herr house. It is possible that the house was built prior to 1795 by a member of the Taylor family, and then purchased by Herr in 1795.) In 1814, Elizabeth Rudy Herr died, leaving John with six children. Two years after her death, Herr married Elizabeth Wayne Simcoe, the wealthy widow of Simeon Simcoe, another early settler in the area, and the niece of General ("Mad") Anthony Wayne, who gained fame during the Revolutionary War and afterwards as an Indian fighter.

At John Herr's death in 1852, Annie Herr Arterburn, the youngest daughter of John and Elizabeth Simcoe Herr, inherited the house and lived there with her husband, Norbourn Arterburn. Norbourn Arterburn, the son of William and Rachel Arterburn, was born and raised about a mile south of the Herr house. Arterburn was a wealthy turnpike builder.

It was probably during this time that the present main block of the house which faces north toward the Brownsboro Pike was added. The five-bay, two-story block that was added in the 1850s is Greek Revival in style with Greek "ear" moldings. An unusual feature of the addition was the circular stairway, located in the northeast corner of the back cross hall that connected the addition to the original section. Unfortunately, the stair was replaced with an open well, two-run staircase sometime in the 1900s. The original portion of the Herr house with its surviving Georgian features, such as the belt course and water table, appears to be the earliest brick house associated with the Herr family. The John Herr house is an interesting architectural study because of the adaptations or variations made in both sections when the Greek Revival block was added to the original Georgian house.

Arterburn is listed as the owner of the house on the 1856 and 1879 maps of Jefferson County. Over the years the house has belonged to C. C. Arterburn and Taylor Rudy, a descendant of Jacob Rudy. It was sold out of the family in 1915.

Edwards-Herr House

Shortly after the death in 1814 of his first wife, Elizabeth Rudy, John Herr purchased the Frederick Edwards property, which was located about a mile south of his own

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estate. The five-bay, two story house is believed to have been built around 1790 by Frederick Edwards, a retired Captain in the British army. Edwards had purchased the land on which the house sits in 1787 from Alexander Scott Bullitt (see Oxmoor (Bullitt Estate), Jefferson County, listed on the National Register July 13, 1976). Captain Edwards married Mary Rudy, a daughter of Jacob Rudy. After the deaths of Captain Edwards and his wife in 1813, their son, Joseph, sold the house and land to his uncle, John Herr.

In 1836 John Herr deeded this house to his youngest son, Alfred, who had probably been living there since his marriage to Mary A. Shirley in 1830. In an 1882 history of the area Alfred Herr is described as being "a man of some considerable influence and property" (Ford, p. 48).

Alfred Herr's son, Wallace, served as a Confederate soldier during the Civil War, and a year after its conclusion he married Kitty Todd, sister of Mary Todd Lincoln. In 1861 Alfred's daughter Jane Helen Herr had married Samuel Sneed Hite, grandson of Isaac Hite, a surveyor who accompanied James Harrod to Kentucky in 1774 (see the Hite-Foree Log House, Jefferson County, listed on the National Register July 30, 1976). Samuel and Jane Herr Hite inherited the property at her father's death. The house remains in the Hite family at this time.

The exact construction date of the house is difficult to determine architecturally, because of the alterations that have been made to it. Although the house had many early features, as shown in the early photographs, such as the small window panes and frames, and the severe front entrance, which could date from as early as 1790, the lack of a belt course and water table, may indicate that it was built closer to 1800. In general the overall tone of the house is Federal rather than Georgian, perhaps indicating that it was constructed later than 1790.

Vulcan Rudy House

The Vulcan Rudy house is constructed on land included in the acreage bought by John Herr from Joseph Edwards in 1814. It is believed that Herr gave this land to his daughter Elizabeth when she married Vulcan Rudy around 1820. The five-bay, two-story brick house was constructed about that time, perhaps by Thomas Wines Hubbard,

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and was enlarged a short time later. Like the other Rudy and Herr family houses the Vulcan Rudy house is an interesting combination of two early styles. The original five-bay, two-story, one-room deep block which was Federal in style, was enlarged by the addition of a room downstairs and up, to the rear of the west bay. The double parlor which was formed on the first floor by this addition is characteristic of the Greek Revival period. The woodwork throughout the addition is Greek Revival, while the original Federal woodwork remains intact in the eastern portion of the house.

Little is known about Vulcan Rudy, but it is believed that he was a son of Daniel Rudy. At the death of Vulcan and Elizabeth Rudy the house was left to their daughter Sarah and her husband Crawford Arterburn. Crawford Arterburn, a wealthy slave dealer, was a brother of Norbourn Arterburn. George Rudy is listed as the owner on the 1856 map and Mrs. Rudy is listed as the owner on the 1879 atlas. The house remained in the Rudy-Arterburn family until 1951, when it was bought by the present owners.

George Herr House

In 1817 John Herr bought 194 acres of land, called the "Abbots Station Tract," located between the John Herr House and the Edwards-Herr House. In 1825 John Herr's son George (1805-1875), a farmer, married the daughter of his stepmother, Sarah Simcoe. It is believed that the house was built at this time by John Herr for his son George and his wife. Thomas Wines Hubbard is believed to have been the builder. The house is very similar to the Edwards-Herr house and perhaps to the Vulcan Rudy House, before the Greek Revival addition was made to the Rudy House. Few alterations or additions have been made to the George Herr house and perhaps because of this, it is the best example of the type of simple, sturdy, yet handsome houses occupied by the Rudy and Herr families. Federal in style, the house is based on the two-room central hall plan.

Lewis Taylor Herr (born in 1844) the son of Sarah and George Herr, inherited the house and thirty-three acres after his father's death in 1875. Herr lived there until his death in 1889 and in 1902 his widow sold the property outside the family. T. Herr is listed on the 1879 Atlas.

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Taylor-Herr-Oldham House

Around 1830 or earlier, John Herr acquired a four-room, two-story brick house and approximately 80 acres from Richard Taylor, the father of Zachary Taylor (see Springfield, Jefferson County, listed on the National Register prior to Preservation Act of 1966 and currently undergoing restoration). The property is located 1/2 mile due north of the John Herr house. Herr's daughter Emily and her husband John Oldham were living in the house when it was willed to Emily by her father in 1852. It remained in the Oldham family until 1929.

In 1940 a major addition was made to the rear of the original block, which then became a small wing to the structure. The addition designed by the Louisville architect, Frederick Morgan, is in keeping with the period of the original portion, although it is more elaborate and grander in scale. Despite these differences, however, the addition is harmonious, being a good traditional design, and of architectural interest in its own right.

John Herr, Jr., - A. G. Herr House

In the 1820s John Herr, Jr. (1806-1863), married Susan Oldham, John Oldham's sister. It is probable that at this time his father, John Herr, deeded some acreage and probably a house to his son on the eastern section of his land holdings. Evidently there was a house on the property that was built as early as 1790. In 1830 the structure was demolished and another house was built on the stone foundations.

John Herr, Jr., served as a magistrate for the area for forty years. In 1854 he was elected to the state legislature. In addition to his success in politics, he was a prosperous farmer.

In 1863 his son, Albert, inherited the farm and turned it into the famous Magnolia Stock Farm. Albert G. Herr was born at Magnolia farm in 1840 and attended the local schools. In 1860 he married Mattie E. Guthrie, a native of Henry County. A. G. Herr devoted himself to the building and improvement of roads in the area. In 1877

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he constructed at his own expense a school house for the neighborhood children. The same year he built the present house which is thought to incorporate portions of the old.

In the History of the Ohio Falls Cities (1882) is the following description: "Mr. Herr established the farm - upon the basis it is now run, in 1864, and built the magnificent mansion in 1877." It is a double house, square in form, two stories and an attic, with a hall eighteen feet in width" (p. 65). The house which remains essentially unaltered, is built in the Italianate style with long narrow openings with triangular pediments above the first floor windows and segmental pediments over the second floor openings. Large brackets decorate the cornice which extends around the house. As seen in the illustration from the History of the Ohio Falls Cities, the house was the focal point of Herr's well known estate, Magnolia Stock Farm, which was renowned for its Jersey cattle, trotting horses, Berkshire hogs, and Merino sheep.

In 1879, Herr was appointed by Governor Blackburn as a commissioner to the Central Lunatic Asylum in nearby Anchorage and served a productive term. In this position Herr introduced several changes which increased the efficiency of the operation of the institution.

A tragic incident is associated with the Albert Herr house. In April 1891, the wedding and reception of Herr's granddaughter took place at Magnolia Stock Farm. The chicken salad, served as part of the refreshments, had evidently spoiled and as a result twenty-six persons including the bridegroom, died of food poisoning. Many of the other guests became extremely ill.

After the death of Albert Herr and his wife Mattie in the early 1900s, Magnolia Stock Farm was divided into large lots and sold at auction in 1918. The house and related outbuildings on an adjacent lot have passed through several owners since that time.

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Keith, Mrs. J. P. "Windy Hills: A Neighborhood History." Unpublished paper, 1974,  
on file at the Kentucky Heritage Commission.

Map of Jefferson County, Kentucky. Louisville, 1856.

Additional information from Mrs. J. P. Keith, Louisville, Kentucky, and others  
and descendants.



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- o Daniel Rudy House: 16/619080/4236460
- o Edwards-Herr House: 16/619800/4236000
- o John Herr House: 16/619090/4236450<sup>✓</sup> 990
- o Vulcan Rudy House: 16/619480/4235890
- o George Herr House: 16/619460/4236630
- o Taylor-Herr-Oldham House: 16/619090/4236450<sup>4237-700</sup>  
A.G. 618-620
- o ~~John~~ Herr, Jr., House: 16/621130/4237070

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Daniel Rudy House - 1 acre

Edwards-Herr House - 1 acre

John Herr House - 1 acre

Vulcan Rudy House - 1 acre

George Herr House - 3 acres

The nominated acreage includes the smokehouse immediately behind the house and the springhouse two-hundred yards in front.

Taylor-Herr-Oldham House - 1 acre

John Herr, Jr., House (A. G. Herr House) - 1 acre

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- Daniel Rudy House 18 acres UTM References: A. 16/619240/4236560  
B. 16/619120/4236400 C. 16/618950/4236490 D. 16/619100/4236660

The Daniel Rudy House is bounded on four sides by the present property lines.

- Edwards-Herr House 15 acres UTM References: A. 16/619930/4236050  
B. 16/619700/4235800 C. 16/619620/4235860 D. 16/619840/4236130

The Edwards-Herr House is bounded on the north, east, and south by the present property lines and on the west by Westport Road.

- John Herr House 1.5 acres (includes springhouse and smokehouse)  
UTM Reference: 16/619090/4236450  
110 4237-000

- Vulcan Rudy House 1 acre UTM Reference: 16/619480/4235890

- George Herr House 25 acres UTM References: A. 16/619500/4236890  
B. 16/619660/4236900 C. 16/619490/4236560 D. 16/619340/4236740

The George Herr House is bounded on the north by Two Spring Road, on the east by Rudy Lane, on the south by the present rear property line and on the west by the present west property line.

- Taylor-Herr-Oldham House 1 acre UTM Reference: 16/619090/4236450  
618-200/4237-690

- A. G. Herr House 1 acre UTM Reference: 16/621130/4237070



Herr-Rudy Family Houses  
Louisville  
Jefferson County NOV 9 1976  
Kentucky

Map 3.

Atlas of Jefferson and Oldham  
Counties, Kentucky. Philadelphia:  
Beers and Lanagan, 1879.

The Herr family houses are circled  
in red.

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Herr-Rudy Family Houses

Louisville

Jefferson County

Kentucky

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Map of Jefferson County, Kentucky.

Louisville:

1856.

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Map 4.