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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

TYPE PRINT  
COMMISSION

For NPS use only

received 6/11/84

date entered

SEP 4 1984

See Instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

## 1. Name

historic Multiple Resource Area of Lancaster

and/or common

## 2. Location

The Incorporation Limits of Lancaster - 1 District & 17 Individual

Nominations

street & number

not for publication

city, town

vicinity of

congressional district

state

code

county Garrard

code

## 3. Classification

Multiple Resources

### Category

☒ district  
☒ building(s)  
☒ structure  
☒ site  
☒ object

### Ownership

☒ public  
☒ private  
☒ both

### Public Acquisition

☒ in process  
☒ being considered

### Status

☒ occupied  
☒ unoccupied  
☒ work in progress

### Accessible

☒ yes: restricted  
☐ yes: unrestricted  
☐ no

### Present Use

☒ agriculture  
☒ commercial  
☒ educational  
☒ entertainment  
☒ government  
☒ industrial  
☒ military

NA

museum

NA

park

☒ private residence

☒ religious

NA scientific

NA transportation

other:

## 4. Owner of Property

Multiple Ownership - See Individual Survey Forms  
and continuation sheet

name

street & number

city, town

vicinity of

state

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Garrard County Courthouse

street & number Court House Square

city, town Lancaster

state Kentucky

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Survey of Historical Sites in

title Kentucky

has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date June - July 1983

☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Kentucky Heritage Council

city, town Frankfort

state Kentucky 40601

## 7. Description See also continuation sheets

### Condition

☒ excellent  
☒ good  
☒ fair

NA deteriorated  
NA ruins  
NA unexposed

### Check one

☒ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
NA moved date August 1983

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

### OVERVIEW OF MULTIPLE RESOURCE AREA

The Multiple Resource Area of Lancaster is composed of one district and 17 individual buildings located outside the district, but within the city limits of Lancaster. The basis of the Historic Commercial District is three quadrants of the "square" which is the traditional business core of the community. The individual structures include twelve residences, a church, a cemetery, a mill, and a jail. The majority of the structures being nominated to the National Register are Italianate in style and date from the second half of the nineteenth century. The "square" typifies the architecture of agricultural county seats found in the central bluegrass region of Kentucky.

### PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF LANCASTER

Lancaster is located at the intersection of highways US 27 and KY 52. Located in the central Bluegrass section of Kentucky, Lancaster is the county seat of Garrard County. Other communities in the county include Bryantsville and Paintlick. Garrard County is bordered by the following counties; on the north by Jessamine County, on the east by Madison County, on the south by Lincoln and Rockcastle counties, and on the west by Boyle County. (See map #1) Lancaster can be reached by US 27 from Lexington, the closest metropolitan community. Lancaster consists of a commercial courthouse square and several residential neighborhoods. The area outside the city limits is primarily agricultural.

### SURVEY METHODOLOGY

A survey of the historic resources within the city limits of Lancaster, Kentucky was conducted during the months of June and July 1983. The Kentucky Heritage Council awarded a matching grant to the Garrard County Historical Society which administered the grant and hired Carman and Powell, Inc. to do the field work. The local match was composed of funds from the City of Lancaster and donated space from the Garrard County Public Library. Charles and Pat Ballard volunteered to research deeds, conduct interviews, and type the forms. Such work was essential in the execution of the grant.

All the historic resources were examined and those which met the necessary historical and architectural criteria were included in the survey. How structures related to the development of Lancaster was an important factor in determining their significance.

Each site was photographed, mapped, and described on a Kentucky Historic Resources form. Eighty structures were included in the Lancaster survey. Of these, 48 buildings are being nominated to the National Register. Thirty-one are within the Commercial District and 17 are individual sites. (See map # 2)

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LIST OF PROPERTY OWNERS  
HISTORIC RESOURCES OF LANCASTER  
MULTIPLE RESOURCES NOMINATION  
LANCASTER, KENTUCKY

OWNER AND ADDRESS

L.G. Hammons, County Judge Executive  
Garrard County Court House  
Lancaster, Kentucky 40444

Garrard County Library Board of Trustees  
James S. Sanders, Chairman  
101 Lexington Street  
Lancaster, Kentucky 40444

Judge H.C. Cox & Paul Long, Attorneys  
13 Public Square  
Lancaster, Kentucky 40444

Judge H.C. Cox  
13 Public Square  
Lancaster, Kentucky 40444

Jack Zanone  
116 Hagan Court  
Lancaster, Kentucky 40444

Mrs. Emma Meadows  
Crab Orchard Road  
Lancaster, Kentucky 40444

James Edgington  
103 Pine Hill Drive  
Lancaster, Kentucky 40444

Rev. Forest Ford, Minister  
P.O. Box 596  
Lancaster, Kentucky 40444

Lancaster Postmaster  
Danville Street  
Lancaster, Kentucky 40444

PROPERTY OWNED

Garrard County Court House  
Public Square, Lancaster

Garrard County Jail  
Stanford Street

Garrard County Public Library  
101 Lexington Street

Garrard County Library Annex  
Public Square

Cox and Long Law Offices  
13 Public Square

The Central Record  
106 Richmond Street

Lancaster Department Store  
7 Public Square

Meadows Clothing Store  
Public Square

Agnes Beauty Shop  
101 Danville Street

First Presbyterian Church  
Danville Street

Lancaster Post Office  
Danville Street

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OWNER AND ADDRESS

Mrs. Ida Brooks Marsee  
225 Danville Street  
Lancaster, Kentucky 40444

Dr. Nicholas Martin  
206 Lexington Street  
Lancaster, Kentucky 40444

Julian Simpson, Pastor  
Lancaster United Methodist Church  
P.O. Box 61  
Lancaster, Kentucky 40444

Mrs. Cliff Ledford  
Meadowlark Drive  
Lancaster, Kentucky 40444

Roy Gregory  
105 Lexington Street  
Lancaster, Kentucky 40444

Coy Arnold  
313 Danville Street  
Lancaster, Kentucky 40444

Mr. and Mrs. James Ramsey  
21 Lexington Street  
Lancaster, Kentucky 40444

Mrs. Jesse Ray  
222 Lexington Street  
Lancaster, Kentucky 40444

Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Petrie  
404 Danville Street  
Lancaster, Kentucky 40444

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Simpson  
212 Danville Street  
Lancaster, Kentucky 40444

PROPERTY OWNED

Layton Law Office  
104 Danville Street

Lancaster Family Health Center  
206 Lexington Street

Lancaster United Methodist Church  
Stanford Street

Bill Hume Hair Design  
107 Lexington Street

The Firestone Store  
105 Lexington Street

Montgomery Jewelry  
Public Square

211 Lexington Street

222 Lexington Street

404 Danville Street

212 Danville Street

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OWNER AND ADDRESS

Jane Haselden  
106 Hill Court  
Lancaster, Kentucky 40444

Mr. and Mrs. Billy T. Wearren  
P.O. Box 271  
Lancaster, Kentucky 40444

Jack Bailey  
P.O. Box 635  
Lancaster, Kentucky 40444

Walter C. Cox  
102 Danville Street  
Lancaster, Kentucky 40444

Lewis Layton  
97 Public Square  
Lancaster, Kentucky 40444

Caywood Metcalf  
Garrard County Court House  
Lancaster, Kentucky 40444  
and

Danny Irvin  
Public Square  
Lancaster, Kentucky 40444

Danny Irvin  
Public Square  
Lancaster, Kentucky 40444

Mrs. Doris Spurlin  
17 Public Square  
Lancaster, Kentucky 40444

Harold Peach  
601 W. Broadway  
Lawrenceburg, Kentucky 40342

PROPERTY OWNED

106 Hill Court

308 Stanford Street

Bailey Auto Electric Shop  
110 Danville Street

Cox Office  
102 Danville Street  
and Clark's Pool Room  
Public Square

City Loan  
97 Public Square

Hester & Zanone Men's Clothing  
73 Public Square

The Grand Theatre, Lexington St.  
and

Danny Irvin Real Estate  
31 Public Square

The Apparel Shop  
17 Public Square

The Dollar General Store, Public Sq.  
and  
The Louisville Store, 67 Public Square

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OWNER AND ADDRESS

Lancaster Cemetery Company  
National Bank of Lancaster  
27 Public Square  
Lancaster, Kentucky 40444

Charles Hamilton  
107 Maple Avenue  
Lancaster, Kentucky 40444

Mr. and Mrs. Mike Botkin  
108 South Campbell Street  
Lancaster, Kentucky 40444

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Conn  
Paulding Street  
Lancaster, Kentucky 40444

Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Montgomery  
114 Danville Street  
Lancaster, Kentucky 40444

Bobby Ross  
106 Woodland Avenue  
Lancaster, Kentucky 40444

Mrs. Lloyd Moore  
Danville Street  
Lancaster, Kentucky 40444

Maurice K. Thompson  
Crab Orchard Road  
Route 1  
Stanford, Kentucky 40484  
and

Mrs. Marguerite Thompson Schroader  
2810 Hillcrest Avenue  
Dayton, Ohio 45406  
and

Mrs. Ann Morrow Robinson  
2299 Brannon Road  
Nicholasville, Kentucky 40356  
and

Mrs. Nancy Morrow Hill  
502 O'Hara Drive  
Danville, Kentucky 40422

PROPERTY OWNED

Lancaster Cemetery  
Crab Orchard Street &  
Richmond Street

107 Maple Avenue

Adacemy Inn  
108 South Campbell Street

204 Danville Street  
and  
Conn's Garage, 202 Danville Street

114 Danville Street

112 Danville Street

Garrard Mills  
205 E. Buford Street

Thompson & Morrow Hardware  
102 Stanford Street

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OWNER AND ADDRESS

John R. Morris  
215 Richmond Street  
Lancaster, Kentucky 40444

Charles Hood  
312 W. Buford Street  
Lancaster, Kentucky 40444

E.C. Steely  
Glenmore Heights  
Route 1  
Lancaster, Kentucky 40444

Mr. and Mrs. Steven R. Adams  
217 Lexington Street  
Lancaster, Ky. 40444

Rev. Theodore C. Nicholas  
54 South Arnold  
Prestonsburg, Ky. 41653

PROPERTY OWNED

215 Richmond Street

215 Buford Street

Western Auto Store  
33 Public Square

217 Lexington Street

213 Lexington Street

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The names and mailing addresses of all owners of numbered sites within the nomination (both individual buildings and buildings within the Lancaster Historic District) are listed on individual survey forms, included as accompanying documentation. There are four additional properties which fall within the district but are non-contributing elements - names and addresses for owners of these properties are as follows:

Site A:	Parking Lot - Danville Street - Owned by Lancaster Post Office c/o Lancaster Post Master Lancaster, Kentucky 40444
Site B:	106 Danville Street Owned by Mrs. Cliff Ledford Meadowlark Drive Lancaster, Kentucky 40444
Site C:	27 Public Square Owned by National Bank of Lancaster 27 Public Square Lncaster, Kentucky 40444
Site D:	61 Public Square Owned by Garrard Insurance Co. 61 Public Square Lancaster, Kentucky 40444

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ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:    EARLY DEVELOPMENT

Seven structures within the Multiple Resource Area date from the early years of Lancaster or the Federal Period (1801-1830). The Ball House (GDL 53), the Brown House (GDL 35), The Wherritt House (GDL 6), and the Marksbury House (GDL 37) are two story log structures now covered with weatherboarding. All sit on original town lots as plotted by Bledsoe in 1794.

The Ball House on Richmond Road and the Wherritt House on Lexington Road have three bay facades and exhibit the 3:2 proportions of the rectangular style pen log house. The interiors have a two room or hall-parlor plan formed by a board partition.

The Brown House on Danville Street has a two bay facade and a single square pen floor plan. The door is placed on the opposite end from the chimney. The Marksbury House also on Danville Street is two pens connected by a hall.

There are three other log structures within the city limits, but not included in this nomination. Two are rectangular single pen floor plans and have been covered in aluminum siding. The third is the Boyle-Robertson-Letcher House on Maple Street. It is a double pen log house with a dog trot covered in beaded clapboard and was placed on the National Register in 1975.

On Danville Street, the Bland House (GDL 39) built in 1818 is a two story, three bay, Flemish bond brick residence with a hall-parlor floor plan. Detailing includes panelled shutters, bevelled brick water table, and jack arches over the windows.

Two brick commercial buildings from this period remain, although their facades have undergone considerable alteration. The Mason Hotel (GDL 27), one of the first hotels in Lancaster, was built by Hugh Logan on Stanford Street prior to 1830. Plate glass windows have replaced the detailing on the first floor, but the second floor reveals a five bay facade, Flemish bond brick, gable roof, end chimneys, and jack arches over the windows.

The Womens Club Library (GDL 48) on Lexington Street was built by William Cooke in 1821. The four bay facade of the second story has Flemish bond brick, jack arches over the windows, and the remains of an exterior chimney on the south end.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:    GREEK REVIVAL

The Greek Revival period is shown by one brick structure, the Hill House (GDL 7), and three frame residences: the Peacock House (GDL 52), the Hamilton House (GDL 16), and the Lear House (GDL 11).

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The Peacock House on Buford Street has a two story, three bay facade with a central doorway and two tiered portico with a pedimented roof. The central entrance has a transom and sidelights and leads to a central hall and staircase. The floor plan is one room deep and flanked by end chimneys.

The Hamilton House on Maple Street is a more fully developed example of the I-house plan that was very popular in Kentucky before the Civil War. Exterior end chimneys frame a five bay facade which has a central doorway and a two tiered portico accessible from both levels. The style retained many of the symmetrical features of the Federal period while providing more privacy and efficient circulation to the second floor. The Lear House on Lexington Street is also a five bay I-house, but the proportions of the facade have been altered by an early twentieth century addition of a massive three bay, two story porch. Despite the alterations, some earlier details are still visible such as the fluted moldings on the window frames.

The Hill House on Hill Court built in 1850 by Dr. Oliver Perry Hill, is a two story Flemish bond brick residence with a low hip roof. The central hallway is flanked by a floor plan two rooms deep. The facade is five bay with a wide entablature, but the porch has undergone some alterations. Additions can be seen in the carport on the south and the ell on the east.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION: GOTHIC REVIVAL

The gothic revival style is illustrated by one brick mid-nineteenth century cottage and two late nineteenth century churches.

The Wearren House (GDL 9) on Stanford Street is a one and one half story brick residence. The five bay facade has a central wall gable over the entrance and elongated windows. The floor plan is symmetrical, two rooms deep with a central hallway. The one story porch is a later addition.

Two churches, the First Presbyterian (GDL 33) and the Methodist Episcopal (GDL 18) were built at a later point in the 19th century, 1879 and 1896 respectively. The gothic windows are embellished with brick corbelling and stone moldings. Both churches are two story sanctuaries with three story towers. The Presbyterian Church on Danville Street has an elongated spike-like roof while the tower of the Methodist Episcopal Church is a pyramidal roof.

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ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION: ITALIANATE

The architecture of the commercial district on the square reflects the height of Lancaster's commercial enterprises related to the processing of agricultural products. Thirty-three percent of the buildings in the commercial district are Italianate. The Italianate buildings include: Garrard Deposit Bank (GDL 40); Counting and Boardroom of the Citizens National Bank (GDL 41); the Owsley Building (GDL 43); Clothing Store (GDL 44); Hardware Building (GDL 45); Apparel Shop (GDL 26); Lancaster Department Store (GDL 29 and 30 ); Stormes Drugstore (GDL 31); Hat Factory (GDL 32); Citizens National Bank (GDL 42); Garrard County Courthouse (GDL 1); Old City Hall (GDL 28); and the Garrard County Jail (GDL 8).

Typically these buildings are two story, four or eight bay facades with a flat roof. The first stories are usually radically altered but the second story displays the round arched or segmental arched windows with hood moldings of stone or cast iron. Cast iron posts and cornices can still be seen on many of the store fronts.

The most ornate example of this style of commercial building is the Citizens National Bank Building built in 1882. The structure stands on a prominent corner in the square and is three stories tall. It is distinguished by stone quoins at the corners, overhanging eaves with brackets, and a free standing Corinthian cast iron column.

Of the public buildings on the square both the Garrard County Courthouse and the Garrard County Jail are characterized by the symmetry of their floor plans and overhanging eaves with brackets. The courthouse also exhibits a two storied portico made of sandstone on the first story and wood Corinthian columns on the second.

Two frame Italianate residences with the T-plan form are the Petrie House (GDL 17), and the Hemphill House (GDL 14). The Peacock - Miller House (GDL 4) is also a T-plan, but the structural material is brick. The Petrie House on Danville Street has an ornate cast iron porch with delicate posts. The Hemphill House on Lexington Street is distinguished by its polygonal bay window with stained glass. Although the exterior of the Peacock - Miller house has been altered through the enlargement of the front porch, the interiors retain the mantel pieces, etched glass, plaster ceiling moldings in excellent condition. All the Italianate residences have overhanging eaves and brackets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION: QUEEN ANNE

Only two examples of the Queen Anne style are to be found in the Multiple Resource

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*Area*

District. One is the Central Record Building (GDL 21) and the other is the Denny House (GDL 12). The Central Record Building was built in 1889 after a fire in southeast quadrant of the square. It is a two story brick building with round-ed bays and overhanging eaves.

The Denny House on Lexington Street has an asymmetrical plan, multi-planed roof, and many materials including stone, wood, shingles, and brick.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION: ROMANESQUE REVIVAL

The Lancaster Cemetery was incorporated in 1861. The cast iron gates and stone posts were probably installed shortly thereafter on Crab Orchard Street. The only example of Romanesque Revival architecture in Lancaster is the Receiving Vault. Built in 1897 to hold bodies during the winter when the ground was frozen too hard to allow burial, it is a stone structure with a gable roof. The ornamentation consists of a cast iron gate and red sandstone pilasters framing the entrance. (GDL 20)

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION: CLASSICAL REVIVAL AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY

The largest concentration of early 20th century commercial buildings is found in the southeast quadrant of the square because of fires in that area in the 1890's. They include the following structures: the Abner Building (GDL 22); the Robinson-Owsley Building (GDL 23); and the McRoberts Drug Store Building (GDL 24). All the buildings reflect the symmetrical proportions of the style and have cornices with dentils and pediments.

The Post Office (GDL 34) on Danville Street was completed in 1917 and exhibits the more ornate aspects of the style with fluted pilasters and elaborated cornice. The first story of the Grand Theater (GDL 51) has been radically changed, but the second story and the pedimented parapet with the name of the theater embellished on it still hint of the richness of detail that once was found on the interior. Though the interior is currently being used for storage, the woodwork by the local craftsman Trumbo, the light fixtures, the pressed tin ceiling, and the balcony remain.

Another group of early twentieth century buildings in the commercial district relate to the emergence of the automobile as a primary means of transportation. The Haselden Garage (GDL 50) on Lexington Street was built of the concrete block rusticated to imitate stone in the 1920's. It served as the showroom and garage for many of the first automobiles in Lancaster. The Model T, the Hudson Essex, the Whippet, and the Willis were first shown here to the people of Garrard county.

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It later became the Chevrolet garage.

Cox's filling station (GDL 47) adjacent to the library building became a fixture on the square by 1925. What had earlier been the north-south route from Stanford to Lexington was now US 27, a major national highway. The filling station and Conn's garage (GDL 36) on Danville Street were one story brick utilitarian buildings.

From 1886 to 1929, the agricultural industries waxed and waned in Lancaster. The nineteenth century Sandborn Insurance Maps showed distilleries, planing mills, tobacco warehouses, hemp warehouses, feed mills, and flour mills. In 1901, the Garrard Mill (GDL 15) appeared as a three story flour elevator of crib construction. From the early days of its operation, the building was sheathed in tin. During the second decade of the twentieth century, the Garrard Mills complex on Buford Street had grown to include the milling of flour and feed, coal, and corn disbursement. It presently operates as a feed mill and is the only agricultural related industry left in the city limits.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY: SUMMARY

Of the structures within the Multiple Resource Area, 21% date from the period 1800-1850; 54% of the structures date from 1850 to 1900; and 24% of the structures date from 1900 to 1929. 75 % of the buildings are brick and 16% are frame. The remainder are one example each of stone, tin, concrete, and aluminum siding.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<u>NA</u> prehistoric	<u>NA</u> archeology-prehistoric	<u>X</u> community planning	<u>X</u> landscape architecture	<u>X</u> religion
<u>NA</u> 1400-1499	<u>NA</u> archeology-historic	<u>NA</u> conservation	<u>X</u> law	<u>NA</u> science
<u>NA</u> 1500-1599	<u>X</u> agriculture	<u>NA</u> economics	<u>NA</u> literature	<u>NA</u> sculpture
<u>NA</u> 1600-1699	<u>X</u> architecture	<u>X</u> education	<u>NA</u> military	<u>NA</u> social/
<u>NA</u> 1700-1799	<u>NA</u> art	<u>NA</u> engineering	<u>NA</u> music	humanitarian
<u>X</u> 1800-1899	<u>X</u> commerce	<u>X</u> exploration/settlement	<u>NA</u> philosophy	<u>X</u> theater
<u>X</u> 1900-	<u>NA</u> communications	<u>X</u> industry	<u>X</u> politics/government	<u>X</u> transportation
		<u>NA</u> invention		— other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

### SUMMARY OF MULTIPLE RESOURCE AREA

The Multiple Resource Area contains Lancaster's best examples of the residential styles used in this community from the early 19th century to the first quarter of the twentieth century. Houses of the Federal, Gothic Revival, Greek Revival, Italianate, Queen Anne, and Classical Revival styles are represented in the individual nominations. Many of the houses belonged to business and civic leaders who had their offices on the square.

Structures representing the civic, religious, and educational aspects of Lancaster's 19th century evolution have also been nominated. The agricultural economy which motivated this growth has been highlighted through the last remaining agricultural operation within Lancaster's city limits.

Thus the 31 buildings of the historic commercial district and the 17 individual buildings comprise the most complete composite of 19th and early 20th century commercial and civic development in Lancaster.

### INDIVIDUAL NOMINATIONS: SIGNIFICANCE

The Ball House (GDL 53) and the Wherritt House (GDL 6) are two of the seven remaining log structures within the city limits of Lancaster. They date from the period of Lancaster's early development and are important for the sense of scale of that period which they evoke. The Wherritt House has the only example of beaded clapboard within the nomination.

The Peacock House (GDL 52), the Hamilton House (GDL 16), and the Lear House (GDL 11) are Lancaster's only brick Greek Revival house and was the home of O.P. Hill, a protagonist in the Hill-Evans feud.

The Wearren House (GDL 9) is the only Gothic Revival cottage still standing in Lancaster. Despite the alterations to the front porch, it still projects the ideal of the country cottage as espoused by Andrew Jackson Downing.

The M.E. Church (GDL 18) is also designed in the Gothic Revival Style and is especially notable for the stone work.

The Petrie House (GDL 17) and the Hemphill House (GDL 14) are Lancaster's most elaborate examples of the late 19th century frame Italianate T-plan. The detailing on the Petrie House includes the only cast iron porch left in Lancaster. The Miller

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property See Individual Survey Forms Attached.

Quadrangle name Lancaster

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 

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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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**Verbal boundary description and justification** Boundaries for the entire multiple Resources Area are the incorporation limits of Lancaster (See Map #2). Boundaries for the Central Lancaster Historic District are described in Item 7 (See also Map #3).

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries N/A

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Helen Powell

organization Carman & Powell, Inc.

date August 1983

street & number Suite 201, 2230 Idle Hour Center

telephone (606) 266-5351

city or town Lexington,

state Kentucky 40502

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

     national      state   X   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 David R. Morgan

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date July 18, 1984

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

David R. Morgan

date 9/4/84

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

Continuation Sheet for District

Chief of Registration

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Peacock House (GDL 4) is Lancaster's most outstanding brick Italinate residence and is especially notable for the interior detailing.

The Male Academy (GDL 19) is the only building left from the period which spawned the Garrard Female Institute, the Rosebud Seminary, and the Garrard Female College. Built in 1875, it was used as a school until 1886. After many other uses, it has now been restored for use as a restaurant.

The Denny House (GDL 12) is the only Queen Anne residence in Lancaster which has not undergone considerable modification. It still demonstrates the asymmetrical plan, multiple materials, and multi-planed roof line of the style.

The Lancaster Cemetery (GDL 20) contains the only example of the Romanesque Revival style in Lancaster. It is especially notable in the red sandstone pilasters used to highlight the entrance. Because of a pedestrian gate and proximity to town, the cemetery is increasingly used as a passive recreation park.

The Garrard Mills (GDL 15) were built in 1901 and are the only surviving buildings from the bustling warehouse and milling industries that were once located along the L & N Railroad. Much of the original equipment can be seen in storage on the third floor. The Garrard Mills once milled wheat, corn and other feeds as well as selling coal and lumber. Now the business is primarily concerned with feed milling, but still is an important industry for the agricultural community.

The Sue Shelby Mason House (GDL 13) is Lancaster's most outstanding example of the Classical Revival style applied to domestic architecture. This turn of the oxen century house combines the symmetrical layout with eclectic detailing.

HISTORY OF LANCASTER

Garrard County was created in 1796 and named for the Honorable James Garrard the second governor of Kentucky. Garrard County was formed from portions of Lincoln, Mercer, and Madison counties and was the 25th in the Commonwealth. The total land area is 150,000 acres of hilly to rolling farm land. The perimeter of the county is partially formed by Paint Lick Creek and the Dix and Kentucky Rivers. Agriculture was the foremost industry of the county and as early as 1789 there was a warehouse for tobacco called Quantico at the intersection of Sugar Creek and the Kentucky River.

The town of Lancaster was laid out in 1794 and the courthouse in the center of the square was the focus of judicial activity. Three lawyers who practiced law in Garrard County became governors of Kentucky. Robert P. Letcher (1788-1864) represented Garrard County in the Kentucky Legislature in 1813, 1814, 1815, 1817, 1836,

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1837, and 1838. He was a representative to the 18th and 19th Congress (1823-1833). In 1840, he was elected governor and served until 1844. In 1849, Letcher was appointed minister to Mexico.<sup>16</sup>

William Owsley (1782-1862) was born in Virginia, but his family moved to Lincoln County in 1783. He began to practice law in Garrard County in 1809 and his name appears frequently as the owner of different properties on the square from this period. In 1831, he was elected to the state legislature and from 1833 to 1834 was a state senator. Owsley was secretary of state from 1834 to 1836 and the 16th governor from 1844 to 1848.

In 1812, Owsley was appointed to the Court of Appeals where he participated in several controversial decisions. One involved the right of the Bank of the United States to establish branches in Kentucky and the other the constitutionality of the Kentucky Replevin Act of 1820 concerning the amount of time that debtors had to pay debts. Such decisions shortened his career on the court and he returned to Lancaster and private practice.<sup>17</sup>

William O. Bradley was the first Republican governor of the state from 1895 to 1899. He lived from 1847 to 1914 and practiced with his father in Lancaster starting in 1865. In 1870, he was elected county attorney. His gothic revival cottage on Lexington Street is already on the National Register. After serving as governor of Kentucky, he was elected to the United States Senate in 1908 and he died in office.<sup>18</sup>

Two other lawyers from Lancaster were elected to the Appellate Court. John Boyle was Chief Justice of the Supreme Court from 1803 to 1809. George Robertson was a chief justice, jurist, and circuit judge. Robertson County is named for him.

HISTORY OF LANCASTER: CIVIL WAR

The growth of Lancaster during the 19th century from its beginnings as a town of 103 people in 1800 was not without its dark moments. In 1833, Cholera struck Lancaster killing 120 people. The epidemic was believed to have been transmitted from Philadelphia by a wagonload of goods ordered by William Cook who had a dry goods store on the square. He was one of the first to die in the epidemic. Other outbreaks of the disease occurred in 1834 and 1837. During this period, the town was almost deserted.<sup>19</sup>

Despite the fact that Lancaster was not the scene of any battles during the Civil War, it was the scene of violence and bloodshed during this period. The Hill-Evans Feud started in 1829 and was notorious throughout central Kentucky. It began as a

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disagreement over the treatment of a slave woman whom Dr. Hezekiah Evans had hired from Dr. O.P. Hill. Both families were drawn into it and before it was all over, nine people were killed and many others wounded. Both doctors continued to practice until Dr. Hill left the country in 1850 after an assassination attempt on his life. He traveled in South America and Mexico sending home many exotic species which can be seen in the yard of the Hill House. Dr. Hill returned in 1855 to resume his practice. In 1862, Dr. Evans was murdered as he returned from making a call by a man unrelated to the feud.<sup>20</sup>

In 1873, the Sellers-Kennedy Riot began over an argument about votes in an election. Sellers shot Kennedy, but the bullet was deflected. The next week the Kennedy faction besieged the Sellers home. When they could not dislodge the Sellers with gunfire, the Kennedys set fire to the house. Town officials were called to aid the exit of the Sellers from the situation. During the gunfire, one participant and one bystander were killed and several others wounded including a doctor taking care of the wounded.<sup>21</sup>

When the Civil War began, the majority of the enlistments from Garrard County favored the Union. Recruitment ran about 3:1 in favor of the Union because the number of slave holders were few and the people did not believe in the right of Secession.<sup>22</sup>

In August 1861, Camp Dick Robinson at the junction of the Danville and the Lexington roads was the first enlistment station south of the Ohio River. Despite the objections of the governor of Kentucky, five regiments, a battery of artillery, and Wolford's Calvary were stationed there. From this point, the calvary guarded the Hickman Bridge and were close to the Nicholasville Terminus of the Kentucky Central Railroad. Only minor skirmishes occurred in the county during the war itself.<sup>23</sup>

HISTORY OF LANCASTER: RELIGIOUS DEVELOPMENT

In the early 19th century, the four denominations Presbyterians, Methodists, Baptists, and Christian Church built the Republican or New Union Church near Crab Orchard Street. They met on alternate Sundays and the sanctuary was open to all faiths except the "Shaking Quakers". As each group gained in membership and independence, they pulled out of the Union Church, so that it was finally dissolved in 1866. The bricks from the church were used to construct the sexton's house on the Lancaster Cemetery grounds.<sup>24</sup>

The first Presbyterian Church was organized in 1819 and worshipped in the New Union Church for 21 years until 1840. At that time, they erected a church sanctuary at the corner of Buford and Stanford streets. They used this structure until 1878,

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when they moved to their new church on Danville Street. The old Presbyterian Church was then used by the Methodists until 1896 when they tore it down to build a new sanctuary.<sup>25</sup>

The Baptists were organized in 1842 and used the New Union Church until 1851 when they built their church on the corner of Richmond and Campbell Streets. The old church has been replaced and the present structure on the site dates from 1957. The Christian Church was organized in 1827 and pulled out of the New Union Church in 1852. Their present sanctuary on Stanford Street dates from 1952.<sup>26</sup>

HISTORY OF LANCASTER: SCHOOLS

One of the first schools was the Male Academy which was built by the Masons between 1806 and 1815. It was chartered by the Kentucky Legislature on December 12, 1798 and located at the corner of Buford and Campbell Streets, but the building along with all the records burned. Later a brick schoolhouse was built on the same site. Mrs. Fleecie Cook Kinnaid's papers say that this school was built in 1875 and was used until 1885.<sup>27</sup>

In 1814, the Oddfellows built a school on Danville Street. It was called the Franklin Female Institute. The upper floor was used as a meeting place for the Odd Fellows. In 1874, Mr. George Dunlap purchased the building. The school developed under the instruction of Mr. Dunlap and his daughter Eugenia Dunlap Potts, author of the poem "Song of Lancaster". The building burned in 1897.<sup>28</sup>

In the 1880's, Mr. and Mrs. W.A. Yantis directed Rosebud Seminary on Lexington Ave. It was a school for boys and girls. In 1884, the Garrard Female College was established in the former home of George Robertson. The college closed in 1895 and the property was secured for a graded school by the order of the Garrard County Court. In 1913, the present school was built.<sup>29</sup>

HISTORY OF LANCASTER: EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY

The arrival of the twentieth century brought the availability of public services to Lancaster. In 1896, Dr. J.B. Kinnaid was permitted to string a telephone line from his office on Danville Street to his house. In 1899, a telephone franchise for 100 phones was extended to Dr. Kinnaid and the telecommunications era began in Lancaster.<sup>30</sup>

Electric lighting for the downtown was contracted in 1897, and the iron posts with oval globes are visible in photographs taken of court day in the early 1900's. In 1899, the franchise for the city water works was awarded to Moritz-Barwich company.

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Shortly thereafter, the city council had to enact an ordinance to keep people from climbing the water tower.

The fire department switched from a bucket brigade to a fully staffed fire department in 1908. The Womens Club reinstated the library in 1908 and bought the building in which the Garrard County Library is currently housed.<sup>31</sup>

The Grand Theater opened in 1925 on Lexington Street. Built by the Haseldon Brothers, the seating capacity of the theater was 750. There were chandeliers and leather seats in some sections.<sup>32</sup>

The square retained its configuration with the park in the center until 1965 when the concentration of automobile traffic forced the removal of the green space. At present the green space is confined to "L" shaped islands that separate different quadrants of the square. Parking for cars is provided in the interior of each quadrant, while the through traffic occupies the center of the square.

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2. Lancaster Women's Club, op. cit., p. 2.
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4. Lancaster Women's Club, p. 4.
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21. Forrest Calico, op. cit., p. 95.
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23. Forrest Calico, op. cit., p. 128.
24. Lancaster Women's Club, op. cit., pp. 103-105.
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26. Lancaster Women's Club, op. cit., pp. 110-113.
27. Lancaster Women's Club, op. cit., pp. 83.
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Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Lancaster Multiple Resource Area  
State Garrard County, KENTUCKY

Nomination/Type of Review

1. Ball, Billy, House

Entered in the  
National Register

Cover Ret. 3/24/84  
for Keeper Melvyn Byers 3/26/84

Attest

2. Denny Place

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper Melvyn Byers 3/26/84

Attest

3. Garrard County Jail

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper Melvyn Byers 3/26/84

Attest

4. Garrard Mills

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper Melvyn Byers 3/26/84

Attest

5. Hamilton House

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper Melvyn Byers 3/26/84

Attest

6. Hemphill, J. C., House

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper Melvyn Byers 3/26/84

Attest

7. Hill, Dr. Oliver Perry,  
House

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper Melvyn Byers 3/26/84

Attest

8. Lancaster Cemetery

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper Melvyn Byers 3/26/84

Attest

9. Lancaster Commercial  
Historic District

Substantive Review

Keeper ACCEPT (Dink) 3/26/84

Attest

10. Lear, Judge V.A., House

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper Melvyn Byers 3/26/84

Attest

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Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name Lancaster Multiple Resource Area  
State Garrard County, KENTUCKY

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

11. Male Academy

Entered in the  
National Register

for  
Keeper

Delores Byers 3/26/84

Attest

12. Mason, Sue Shelby, House

Entered in the  
National Register

for  
Keeper

Delores Byers 3/26/84

Attest

13. Methodist Episcopal Church

**Substantive Review**

Keeper

Wm Dinkie 7/2/1984

Attest

14. Peacock House

Entered in the  
National Register

for  
Keeper

Delores Byers 3/26/84

Attest

15. Peacock-Miller House

Entered in the  
National Register

for  
Keeper

Delores Byers 3/26/84

Attest

16. Petrie House

Entered in the  
National Register

for  
Keeper

Delores Byers 3/26/84

Attest

17. Wearren Place

Entered in the  
National Register

for  
Keeper

Delores Byers 3/26/84

Attest

18. Wherritt House

Entered in the  
National Register

for  
Keeper

Delores Byers 3/26/84

Attest

19.

Keeper

Attest

20.

Keeper

Attest