

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Belleview  
other names/site number JF453

### 2. Location

street & number 6600 Upper River Road  not for publication  
city, town Harrods Creek  vicinity  
state Kentucky code KY county Jefferson code 111 zip code 40027

### 3. Classification

<b>Ownership of Property</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private <input type="checkbox"/> public-local <input type="checkbox"/> public-State <input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<b>Category of Property</b> <input type="checkbox"/> building(s) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district <input type="checkbox"/> site <input type="checkbox"/> structure <input type="checkbox"/> object	<b>Number of Resources within Property</b> <table border="0"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Contributing</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Noncontributing</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>4</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>0</u> buildings</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>1</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>0</u> sites</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>2</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>0</u> structures</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>0</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>0</u> objects</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>7</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>0</u> Total</td> </tr> </table>	Contributing	Noncontributing	<u>4</u>	<u>0</u> buildings	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> sites	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> structures	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects	<u>7</u>	<u>0</u> Total
Contributing	Noncontributing													
<u>4</u>	<u>0</u> buildings													
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> sites													
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> structures													
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects													
<u>7</u>	<u>0</u> Total													

Name of related multiple property listing: Louisville and Jefferson County Multiple Property Listing  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official David L. Morgan 2-13-92  
Date  
State Historic Preservation Officer, Kentucky Heritage Council  
 State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

### 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register. Patrick Andrews 4/2/92  
 See continuation sheet.  
 determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.  
 determined not eligible for the National Register.  
 removed from the National Register.  
 other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

for Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Agricultural/Subsistence:  
agricultural field

Domestic: Single Dwelling-Residence

Domestic: Single Dwelling-  
Secondary Structure

Agricultural/Subsistence-  
agricultural field, pasture

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

Early Republic - Federal  
Mid-nineteenth Century

foundation Brick

walls Brick

roof Standing seam tin

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture/Subsistence:

agricultural field

Domestic: Single Dwelling-  
Residence, outbuildings

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: Single Dwelling-Residence

Agricultural/Subsistence-  
agricultural field, pasture**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Mid-nineteenth Century

Greek Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Brick

roof Standing seam tin

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture  
Architecture  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

1860-1930  
ca. 1855-1930  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

ca. 1860  
ca. 1855  
ca. 1865  
ca. 1929

Cultural Affiliation

N/A  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Bullder

Unknown  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture  
Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

1860-1939  
ca. 1855-1939  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

ca. 1860  
ca. 1855  
ca. 1865  
ca. 1929

Cultural Affiliation

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Jefferson County Historic Preservation and Archives

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property 123.2

UTM References

A 16 618680 42438810  
Zone Easting Northing

B 16 6196410 424331710  
Zone Easting Northing

C 16 619640 4242960

D 16 61921210 42429610

E 16 618580 4243300

See continuation sheet

Jeffersonville Quadrangle

Verbal Boundary Description

This property includes 123.2 acres that are bounded by the Ohio River on the west, Harrods Creek on the south, Upper River Road on the east and the property line on the north -- including all of the property located in Block Six, Lots Four and 134.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Donna M. Neary, Historic Preservation Analyst  
 organization Jefferson Co. His. Pres. and Archives date January 14, 1992  
 street & number 810 Barret Avenue telephone (502) 625-5761  
 city or town Louisville state Kentucky zip code 40204

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Belleview (JF-453)  
Harrods Creek, Jefferson Co., KY

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The following inventory is a list of resources found within the Belleview (JF453) property.

## Domestic Complex:

1. Main dwelling, contributing building
2. Carriage House/Garage, contributing building
3. Smokehouse, contributing structure

## Agricultural Complex:

4. Barn, contributing building
5. Corn crib, contributing structure
6. Tenant House, contributing building

## Setting:

7. Pasture, contributing site

Belleview represents a well-to-do nineteenth century farm within the context Agriculture in Louisville and Jefferson County, 1800-1930, and the property type of Gentleman Farms. The property contains seven features, all of which are considered to be contributing to the nomination. The features are divided into three groups: Domestic complex, Agricultural complex and Setting. The nominated area contains approximately 123.2 acres.

In order to be considered a true gentleman farm, a property is required to have prime soil composition, buildings exhibiting designed and updated architectural styles, eastern Jefferson County geographic location, wealthy economic status of the owner, and familial connections to the land's owners over time. Belleview is located in one of the most fertile areas of the county. Its soil is comprised of Wheeling-Weinbach-Huntington, which is a higher quality than the Crider-Corydon seen overwhelmingly for gentleman farms.

Belleview is also located in a slightly different region of the county than other gentleman farms. Situated on the Ohio

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River, it is further north than the typical gentleman farm. The majority of gentleman farms are located further east and south of Bellevue (JF453), which is unique in the property type that it is located on the Ohio River.

The farm is buffered by the Ohio River and Harrods Creek on the west and north. River Road curves gently past the entrance to the farm which is shielded by a tree-lined drive. The adjoining property's fields abut the farm on the east. Bellevue (JF453) is surrounded by major transportation routes. Water and land routes were important to the inhabitants for access to the city for work and goods and for selling goods produced on the farm.

The farms acreage slopes gently upwards from River Road to its peak at the main dwelling, and downward from that point to the River. The land fronting on River Road is cleared pastures, providing grazing for the horses and cattle raised at Bellevue in the past and present. A tree-lined drive leads through the pastures toward the main dwelling. A circular driveway gives access to the domestic complex. The construction of buildings, trees and crops suggests the owner's fascination with an orderly and well-groomed layout. The farm was designed to produce and to appeal. The road is designed to carry the visitor to the house or divert him/her to the agricultural complex.

Bellevue has had four owners since 1854. The property has remained as a working farm for all of those years. Its initial development set the tone for its full evolution into a gentleman farm, a state which it retains.

Joseph Bell had purchased the fertile farmland in 1854. He constructed a substantial brick, two-story, I-house and support buildings ca. 1855 on the property and began farming and raising livestock. Bell is responsible for the initial construction on the farm, the placement of the main dwelling and domestic outbuildings and the entry driveway. The initial house and kitchen were incorporated into the present main dwelling, and a smokehouse remains of the outbuildings of this period.

Joseph Bell began farming and raising livestock, including horses and pigs. However, the full development of the farm came



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following the years of his death in 1857. Joseph Bell had laid the groundwork for the development of a gentleman farm, and may have had that ideal in mind when he bought the rich, fertile land on Harrods Creek.

The short tenure of Joseph Bell at the farm left his wife, Selena A. Bell, and later their son, Henry Bell, responsible for bringing the farm to full maturation and further developing the setting as a gentleman farm. Henry Bell was only 12 years old when his father died. He went off to school during his teen years, and returned home after completing his studies at Centre College in Danville, Kentucky. He probably began farming ca. 1865, following his return home. During his time away, his mother, Selena Bell, and younger brother Edward remained on the farm.

The agricultural census of 1860 shows that Selena Bell was producing large harvests of corn, wheat, hay, beans and orchard produce, and was raising livestock. In the three years following the death of her husband, the widow and two young sons had developed the property into a viable, working farm with fields plowed in crops and others as pastures for grazing livestock. Mrs. Bell relied on a paid labor pool to produce such quick results. By 1860 then, the Bells had planted fields and harvested several crops and had planted and reaped the harvest of a fruit orchard. They had manipulated the landscape and had brought order to the property by conscious tree planting in the orchard and near the domestic complex and by development of the farming operation.

Henry Bell was responsible for the construction of the central section of the main dwelling. The large, two-story, double-pile, brick section is a post-bellum construction. Henry Bell's construction follows the gentleman farm registration requirements for subsequent, high-quality additions to farm houses. The new section changed the orientation of the house and became the focal point of it. The section was placed between the existing main block and kitchen and offset to stand out from these buildings on the River Road facade. This created a link between the original dwelling and the kitchen and caused the

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three sections to become one building. A large, full-length, one-story porch was placed on the offset facade. The River facade entrance is treated with a dentiled entablature and pilasters.

As with Bellevue, gentleman farms placed an emphasis on the design of the house, outbuildings and setting, but it was definitely an agricultural undertaking. Gentleman farmers made well-informed, conscious decisions about the operation of the farm. Buildings were placed according to a plan. At Bellevue there were distinct areas for construction. There was a main dwelling domestic complex and an agricultural complex. Trees were planted to provide shade for the main dwelling, and to complement the farm as well as to prevent erosion.

Selena and Henry Bell appeared together on the tax rolls until at least 1891. But, Henry Bell appears as the sole name on the agriculture census after 1870. Selena Bell had run the farm after she was widowed, and while her son was away at school, so it seems apparent that she remained active in decision making on the property.

Toward the later part of the nineteenth century Henry Bell constructed facilities to board and breed horses and a training track at Bellevue. The location of the track was west of the main dwelling in the pasture toward the river, and evidence of it still remains. That horse barn with timber frame construction was in a state of collapse and finally razed in 1986. The barn, a large two-story structure with a large loft and animal stalls, had been located near the northwest property line. A second barn (ca 1910-15) was remodeled in the 1930s to serve as a dairy barn. It was at this time that the shed-roofed additions were made to it.

The grazing fields behind the main dwelling are separated from the domestic complex by a heavy tree-line and board farm fences. Fenced pastures remain as integral parts of the farm, and horses are still raised at Bellevue (JF453). The board fences were replaced by owner James Thompson, but the original fencelines were respected. Bordered by fencerows, these fields

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are used to graze cattle on the property. A heavily wooded area separates the grazing fields from another pasture and the river. There has been some erosion of the riverbank bordering the property.

Henry Bell held the farm until his death in 1929. He had spent 75 years of his life at Bellevue as a boy and as the farmer. He had witnessed the construction of the main dwelling and the initial farming of the land. He had been responsible for construction of the central section of the house, and most of the outbuildings. It is conceivable that he and earlier his mother had carried out his father's intended long-range plans for the farm.

The domestic complex is located approximately in the center of the property. The main dwelling, smokehouse and a carriage house/garage are located in close proximity to the house. The agricultural complex of a barn, corn crib and tenant house are located to the north of the main dwelling and are visible through mature tree growth.

The land around the house is landscaped to buffer the house from the farm fields and agricultural complex. However, the transition is subtly achieved by the use of indigenous plants and trees. Large Holly (*Ilex opaca* Ait), Magnolia (*Magnolia macrophylla* Michx.), Oak (Genus *Quercus*), and White Pine (*Pinus strobus* L.) trees fill the yard. A brick patio and garden have been added in recent years.

Henry Bell was continually increasing the agricultural undertakings at Bellevue. Bell added crops to the farm and increased his production and sale of such dairy products as butter and milk. He added to his livestock with more numbers and better quality animals; he developed the horse breeding and training facilities; and he constructed tenant houses for the workers on the farm. Henry Bell was also responsible for the newer, grander main dwelling for the farm. He incorporated the original dwelling and the kitchen into his plan. The extant agricultural outbuildings were constructed under his tenure, as well as the carriage house/garage. Selena Bell and later Henry

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Bell are most responsible for the development of Belleview as a gentleman farm.

Subsequent owners maintained the property. Ben Ford purchased the property from Henry Bell's heirs in 1929. He and his wife Frieda made some changes to the extant buildings on the property. They added several bathrooms to the house which required infill of several ell spaces on the building. However, the Fords' did not change the layout of the farm. They continued to farm the land, and added to the existing barn in the 1930s to convert it to a dairy barn.

Mrs. Ford sold the property to Alice and James Thompson in 1963. The Thompsons also made some changes to the main dwelling. They enlarged the dormers on the River Road facade. They also added a breakfast room off the kitchen. Mr. Thompson continues the farming operation at Belleview. He has raised soybeans, winter wheat and corn, and he planted a tree farm near Harrods Creek in place of the original orchard. The ground is currently laying fallow and is planted in grass for grazing. He also continues raising livestock; Angus cattle and horses. Belleview remains much as it has over history.

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Harrods Creek, Jefferson Co., KYSection number 7 Page 8Feature InventoryDomestic Complex

- C. 1. Main Dwelling (ca. 1855; ca. 1865) The main dwelling was executed in two major campaigns with two minor additions added in the twentieth century. The original farmhouse was built as a two-story, single-pile, brick I-house with exterior end chimney. The three-bay symmetrical facade was arranged with a central door flanked by 6/6 double-hung sash windows. The upper story contained three evenly spaced 6/6 double-hung sash windows. The entrance on the river facade is fitted with a rounded arch over the door. A brick one and one-half story kitchen was built at the same time, southwest of the house.

The central section, added to the original building ca. 1865, became the focal point of the house. The initial plan for the house appears to have included construction of the first section and kitchen and the later addition of the central section. The central section is offset from the original section and the kitchen on the River Road facade. The large, brick, two-story, double-pile construction was attached to the southwest wall of the existing structure. The section is a five-bay, central passage-plan building with paired interior-end chimneys. It is fitted with two primary facades, one facing the Ohio River and the other facing Upper River Road.

The upper story of the River facade is fitted with small, rectangular, six-paned casement windows. These

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windows are often found on rural houses in New York State, where Joseph and Selena Bell lived before moving to Kentucky in the 1840s. The entrance to the house is uncovered. The entry is graced by narrow sidelights and is flanked by pilasters, supporting a simple entablature.

The River Road facade is accented by three dormers on the upper story. A central door is flanked by full-length windows. A one-story, frame porch extends the length of the main block.

Two changes were made to the house by the Ford's ca. 1929. They added two bathrooms in the first section of the house. The ell areas on the River Road facade and River facade of the original section of the house were filled in with brick to accommodate the change.

A polygonal breakfast room was added to the house in the 1970s by the Thompsons. The room was added to the southwest wall of the kitchen, and is a brick and frame construction.

The changes made to the house by the Fords and Thompsons hold minimum impact to the structure. It retains integrity as a nineteenth century farmhouse built in two major campaigns.

- C 2. Carriage House/Garage (ca. 1875-90) This structure is a one-story, painted brick structure. The front-gabled roof is clad with standing seam tin. A glass and wood vehicular door rests in the gable end, above which is a brick segmental arch. Although some changes have been made to the buildings fenestration, the building maintains overall integrity.
- C 3. Smokehouse (ca. 1855) This one-story, front-gabled, painted brick structure is fitted with a standing seam tin roof. A vent accents the gable peak, over the central door. The building appears to maintain its original integrity.

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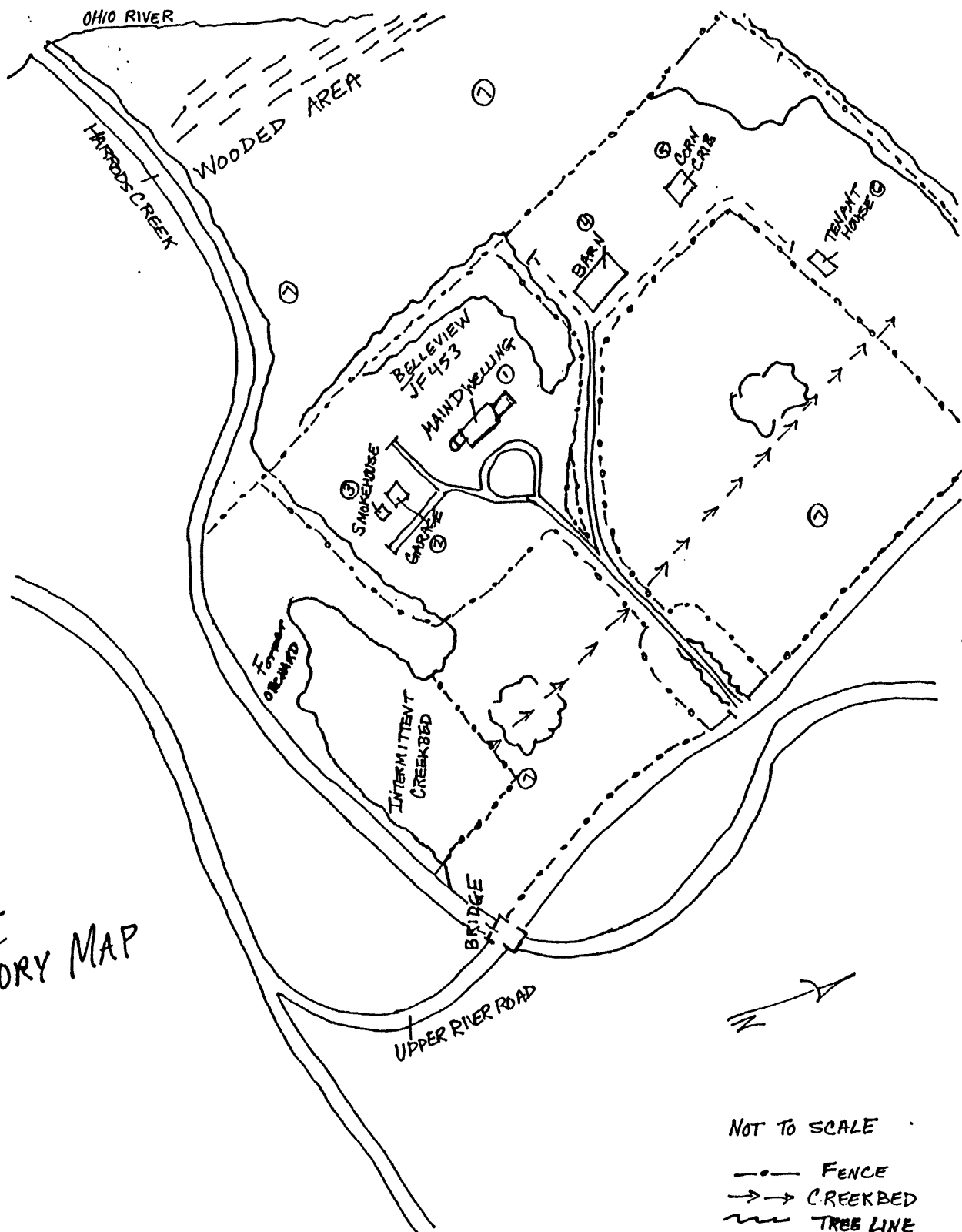
- C 4. Barn (ca. 1910-15) This two-story, frame building is fitted with board and batten siding. Two shed-roofed additions flank the main block. These historic additions, constructed ca. 1925-35, are in keeping with the scale and mass of the building. It was during this same alteration that the barn was converted into a dairy barn. The front gable roof sports a hay hood at its peak. A central, sliding double-door accents the main facade. Six-pane fixed windows accent the side facades. The building maintains historic integrity.
- C 5. Corn crib (ca. 1910-15) This structure is a one-story, frame, double side drive-through corn crib. The front gable roof is clad with standing seam tin. The building rests on concrete block piers, and maintains its historic integrity.
- C 6. Tenant house (ca. 1910-15) This one-story, frame, side-gabled, weatherboarded house is fitted with a central chimney. A shed-roofed screened porch accents the main facade. The building maintains its historic integrity and is kept in good repair.
- C 7. Pasture - The majority of the acreage is currently committed to pastures for the livestock. It was historically used as pasture land and growing fields.

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FEATURE  
INVENTORY MAP

NOT TO SCALE

- FENCE
- CREEKBED
- ~~ TREE LINE



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Bellevue (JF453) is significant at the local level under criterion A as an active and well-preserved example of a Gentleman Farm Property Type. As part of the "Agriculture in Louisville and Jefferson County, Kentucky 1800-1930" context, Bellevue's built, tilled and natural landscape has retained integrity associated with it since its development by Joseph Bell in 1854. The property achieved its significance as a fully realized Gentleman Farm in the period from 1860 to 1939. The main dwelling is also significant for its architectural merit, compared to other gentleman farms' dwellings in the county. The central section of the house is a two-story brick, five-bay, central passage plan building, similar to other farmhouses of the period. However, the stylistic elements chosen for the house differ from the Greek Revival and Italianate so popular in Jefferson County during this period. The builder, Henry Bell, chose to decorate his house based on the regional style indigenous to houses in upstate New York, his parents home state. Further examination of Henry Bell shows that he had abolitionist philosophies. Bell's residence, constructed following the Civil War, was styled after those in a northern state to distance him from the prevailing culture of the south, and to establish his farm as a product of the new, free south.

Bellevue was not originally omitted from a listing of properties fitting into the gentleman farm property type. This may be explained by Bellevue's slight variances from other gentleman farms. In short, Bellevue is further north than other gentleman farms in the county, it is the only identified gentleman farm situated on the Ohio River and its soil content exceeds the expected quality to meet the registration requirements for the property type. However, these slight differences, along with the other registration requirements, enhance the property type.

Other similar properties with qualities of the gentleman farm include: Dravo/Diamond Fruit Farm JF215, Croghan-Blankenbaker House JF458, Abner-Field House JF226, Magnolia Stock Farm JF490, Abraham Williams House JF513, and the James Trigg House JF588.

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Belleview (JF453) is significant at the local level under criterion A as an active and well-preserved example of a Gentleman Farm Property Type. As part of the "Agriculture in Louisville and Jefferson County, Kentucky 1800-1930" context, Belleview's built, tilled and natural landscape has retained integrity associated with it since its development by Joseph Bell in 1854. The property achieved its significance as a fully realized Gentleman Farm in the period from 1860 to 1930. The main dwelling is also significant for its architectural merit, compared to other gentleman farms' dwellings in the county. The central section of the house is a two-story brick, five-bay, central passage plan building, similar to other farmhouses of the period. However, the stylistic elements chosen for the house differ from the Greek Revival and Italianate so popular in Jefferson County during this period. The builder, Henry Bell, chose to decorate his house based on the regional style indigenous to houses in upstate New York, his parents home state. Further examination of Henry Bell shows that he had abolitionist philosophies. Bell's residence, constructed following the Civil War, was styled after those in a northern state to distance him from the prevailing culture of the south, and to establish his farm as a product of the new, free south.

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The registration requirements for the gentleman farm property type call for the farm to be situated in a region with Crider-Corydon soil. Huntington loam creates the basis of Bellevue, a soil type that exceeds Crider-Corydon. The farm sits on a well-drained watershed. Harrods Creek provided for irrigation and for watering animals. The land for Bellevue alternates from cleared farm fields, to rolling hills, to a wooded area and pasture near the Ohio River.

There are natural features important to the growth and full development of Bellevue as a gentleman farm. Its location at the mouth of Harrods Creek at the Ohio River historically gave the farm outlets for transportation and irrigation, as well as adding to the natural beauty of the property. Those features continue to contribute to the integrity and sense of place for the farm. Although unmanipulated these natural features were used by the farmers at Bellevue to their advantage without the need to change them. Upper River Road curves gently past the entrance to the farm which is shielded by a tree-lined drive. The adjoining property's fields abut the farm on the north. Its location in relationship to major historic transportation routes gave access to the city for work and goods and for selling goods produced on the farm.

The farm has retained the level of physical integrity required for the property type. Quality design and workmanship are evident for the main residence and outbuildings. The main block of the farmhouse was constructed ca. 1855 by Joseph Bell. The farmhouse rests on a brick foundation, is constructed of brick, and fitted with a tin roof. Brick farmhouses were favored by farmers for lower maintenance and for perceived longevity over frame construction. True to the property type, substantial additions were made to the main block in separate campaigns. In the case of Bellevue, the construction of the main dwelling was planned to occur in two campaigns.

The gentleman farm displays a designed landscape. The entrance to Bellevue from Upper River Road is a farm lane sheltered by a canopy of mature trees. Conscious tree planting is a major feature of the gentleman farm. Trees were planted to

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shield the main dwelling, to create scenery and to prevent erosion. First owners Joseph and Selena Bell had planted an orchard at Belleview, and the Bells were reaping the harvest by 1860. Current owner James Thompson planted trees along the farm lane as well as creating a tree farm on land bordering Harrods Creek where the orchard once stood.

There is organized land use on a gentleman farm, with an overall scheme for the development and maintenance of the farm. Belleview's main dwelling is placed among the farm's fields, but is separated from the functions of the farm by heavy tree growth and fences. The entrance to the domestic complex is from a dramatic, sloping tree-lined road. The road is a very straight approach, designed by the pragmatic farmer as the most appropriate avenue to his home. The house is visible immediately upon entrance to the road.

Gentleman farms retain their rural atmosphere, regardless of what development or changes have occurred on the perimeter area. Belleview has been lucky in the sense that little intrusive development has occurred around the periphery. The natural boundaries of the creek and the river have thus far guarded two sides from new construction. To the north of the property is a early twentieth century house, divided from the farm by a large field and tree growth. Upper River Road has followed the same path for over one-hundred years, with no impact to the east side of the property. A new construction across the road is somewhat visible from the main dwelling when the leaves are off the trees. Overall, the sense of place and feeling are that of a mid-nineteenth century farm complete with outbuildings and livestock.

The property for Belleview was originally laid out by Transylvania Seminary of Lexington. The original plan intended for a town named Transylvania to be developed on the Ohio River at Harrods Creek. A plat was drawn up and submitted to Jefferson County Court in 1817 which laid out lots and streets for the town. That plan was never executed.

Four people have owned Belleview since its original development as a farm. Joseph Bell purchased the land for the

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farm from the Transylvania Seminary in 1854. Joseph Bell, a grocer and commission merchant in Louisville, had the two-story, single-pile, I-house main block built circa 1855. His inventory and settlement records filed in court on his death in 1857 showed that his holdings included no slaves, three horses, farming equipment, and an undetermined number of hogs. His domestic items were listed only as an oil cloth for the hall valued at \$40 and a refrigerator. Bell was a northerner and an abolitionist. He had the means to own slaves, but Bellevue was operated with a paid labor pool.

Joseph Bell having died intestate, left as his survivors a widow, Selena A. Bell, and two sons, Henry (born in Louisville in 1845) and Edward Bell. Joseph Bell had only been a farmer in Jefferson County for three years before he died. He had secured quality farm land in a key location and had finished construction on a fine three-bay, brick two-story, I-house and had likely built several supporting outbuildings. He was actively farming the land based on his estate, but Joseph Bell had not achieved the status of Gentleman Farmer. He had laid the groundwork for his heirs to bring Bellevue to full maturation as a gentleman farm.

Initially, the management of the farm fell to Selena Bell. Selena Bell also appears to have shared ownership and decision making with son Henry Bell during the remainder of her lifetime. It does not appear that Henry Bell was ever married, in that no evidence of a wife or children exists.

Henry Bell was twelve years old when his father died. He left for school as a teen, attending Forest Home Academy in Anchorage, and Centre College in Danville. Henry Bell completed his studies and returned to the farm ca. 1865 to begin managing the affairs of Bellevue.

Selena Bell and her son, Henry Bell, appear to have been most responsible for the full development of the property as a gentleman farm. The 1860 agricultural census shows that the 115 acres of farmland held a value of \$10,000.00. There was a yield of 2000 bushels of Indian corn; 20 bushels of peas/beans; 150

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pounds of butter; seven tons of hay; and a \$25 value of orchard products. The livestock on the farm was valued at \$500.00 for those on the hoof, and \$60.00 worth of slaughtered. Based on the census, Bellevue exceeded many of its neighbors in land value and in the quantities of crops and livestock produced.

The central section of the main dwelling was constructed ca. 1865. The construction fit into the existing footprint left between the original construction and the separate kitchen. The new construction was offset from the existing buildings on the River Road facade, and was placed flush on the Ohio River facade. It appears that the original plans for the development of the farm including an addition of this size. The stylistic influences for the two-story, double-pile, five-bay, central passage plan house came from the Bells' homestate of New York.

By 1870, the farm had increased in value to \$11,000.00. The number of livestock increased, with the number of hogs tripling. The Bells spent a total of \$900.00 on wages. The production on the farm changed slightly in the ten years between 1860 and 1870. The bushels of Indian corn grown dropped to 1000; 200 pounds of Irish potatoes were grown, a new crop for the farm; 200 pounds of butter was produced and 25 gallons of milk were sold. The slaughtered animals were valued at nearly \$200.00.

The farm operations at Bellevue continued to grow, and Bell increased his interest in horses. The 1888 tax records show that Henry Bell was raising eight tons of hay; 1500 bushels of corn, with 45 acres plowed in corn; 125 bushels of wheat, with seven acres plowed in wheat; and six acres of land were meadow. There were geldings and mares on the farm and cattle. By 1891 Bell had purchased a stallion worth \$200.00. Bell raised trotting horses on the property, and a training track existed into the 1930s. The track was located toward the river, and an impression of it is present. Another horse farm operating near Bellevue in the mid-1920s and 1930s was the Theodore Mueller House/Shady Brook Farm (JF556).

Along with his life at Bellevue, Henry Bell was involved in Jefferson County politics. He held several appointed law

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enforcement positions over his lifetime. He was Deputy Sheriff in 1875, and served in that capacity until 1891 when he was appointed Sheriff. He served as Jefferson County Sheriff until 1895, when he was appointed as the Chief Deputy of the County Clerks Office. Bell's status as a wealthy farmer was probably a factor in his appointment to the various political offices he held. Bell's other pursuits included an interest in the Louisville and Harrods Creek Northern Railroad from 1876-78.

Belleview was sold out of the Bell family by Henry Bell's heirs in 1929 to Benjamin O. Ford. Ford owned two parcels of land adjacent to Belleview. Ford was a partner in the civil engineering firm, Stonestreet & Ford, with offices in the Louisville Trust Building. He is believed to have continued raising horses on the property as well as growing crops. He maintained the farm and was responsible for making two additions to the main dwelling for baths.

Current owners James Thompson and Alice Thompson purchased the property in 1963 from Ben Ford's widow, Frieda. Mr. Thompson is the Chairman of Glenmore Distilleries in Louisville. He continues to raise horses on the farm, along with cattle. The fields are currently laying fallow, previously planted in winter wheat, corn and soybeans. Mrs. Thompson holds title to the house. The farm continues to be a cohesive unit, fitting the registration requirements for the gentleman farm property type.

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BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries include the 123.2 acres of extant buildings, structures, and sites that are historically and culturally related to Bellevue (JF453) during its tenure as a gentleman farm. The farm is roughly bounded by the Ohio River on the west, Harrods Creek on the south, River Road on the east and the property line on the north.

The entire property is nominated because of the following reasons: (1) historically, the majority of property is the original tract of land settled by Joseph Bell in 1854, (2) the setting of the farm is not limited to only the main house, and (3) the historical significance of the entire property has been considered in this nomination.

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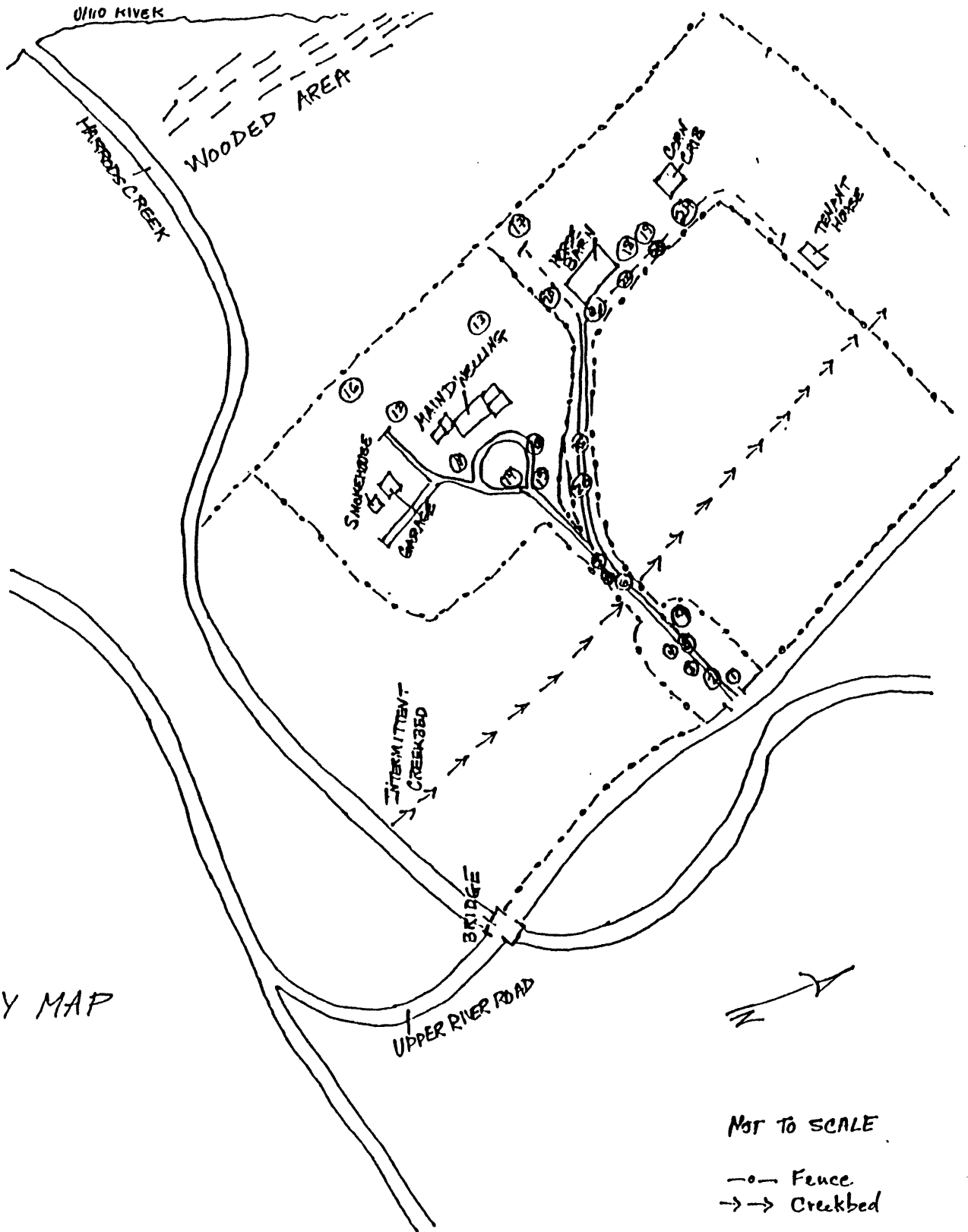


PHOTO  
INVENTORY MAP

NOT TO SCALE

- o- Fence
- >-> Creekbed

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**SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD**

NRIS Reference Number: 92000158 Date Listed: 4/2/92

Bellevue                      Jefferson KY  
Property Name:              County:      State:

Louisville and Jefferson County MRA  
Multiple Name

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This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

*for* Patrick W. Andrews  
Signature of the Keeper

5/7/92  
Date of Action

=====  
**Amended Items in Nomination:**

In consultation with the SHPO the Period of Significance has been defined as ending in 1930, and the Architectural Classification has been changed to Mid-Nineteenth Century Greek Revival. The nomination form is officially amended to include these changes.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

- National Register property file**
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)**

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For all Photos:

Historic Name: Belleview  
Photographer: Donna M. Neary  
Negative Location: Jefferson Co. Office of Historic Preservation & Archives  
Date Taken: November 1991

<u>Photo No.</u>	<u>View or Elevation</u>
1	west, entrance to property
2	west, entrance to property
3	west, pasture
4	west, pasture
5	west, entrance to property with view of main dwelling
6	west, entrance to property with view of main dwelling
7	southwest, pasture with intermitten creekbed
8	southwest, pasture with creekbed
9	northwest, pasture with view of outbuildings
10	southwest, main dwelling, rear facade
11	northeast, main dwelling, rear facade
12	northeast, main dwelling, front facade
13	southeast, main dwelling, front facade
14	west, main dwelling, rear facade
15	east, view of pastures
16	west, view of pastures
17	west, view of pastures
18	south, horse barn
19	north, corn crib
20	south, view of domestic complex
21	south, view of domestic complex from agricultural complex
22	east, pasture
23	east, pasture
24	northeast, tenant house
25	northwest, tenant house
26	northwest, pasture