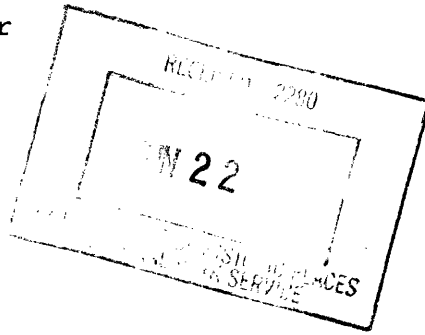


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



1. Name of Property

historic name Gardner House
other names/site number HT 310

2. Location

street & number farm lane on N side of W. Walker Rd not for
publication N/A
town Northtown vicinity X state Kentucky code KY county
Hart code 099 zip code 42719

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets 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 X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ___ nationally ___ statewide X locally.

David L. Morgan

May 28, 2004

Signature of certifying official David L. Morgan, SHPO

Date

Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office _____
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is

- entered in the National Register
- 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): _____

Robert H. Beall 8/4/04

Jpr

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure
	<input type="checkbox"/> object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	sites
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	structures
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	objects
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Total

Number of resources previously listed in the National Register 0
 Name of related multiple property listing N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
 Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: single dwelling

Current Functions

Cat: VACANT/NOT IN USE
WORK IN PROGRESS

7. Description

Architectural Classification Cat: EARLY REPUBLIC Sub: FEDERAL

Materials

Foundation	<u>STONE</u>
roof	<u>METAL</u>
walls	<u>BRICK</u>
other	<u>CONCRETE</u>

Narrative Description (See continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

- A owned by a religious institution, used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance ARCHITECTURE
 Period of Significance ca.1810
 Significant Dates ca.1810
 Significant Person N/A
 Cultural Affiliation N/A
 Architect/Builder Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance (See continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References (See continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- preliminary determinat. of individual listing 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 # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Programs in Folk Studies and Anthropology, Western Kentucky University

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property less than one acre

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>16</u>	<u>589 100</u>	<u>4121 565</u>	3	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____

_____ See continuation sheet.

UTM Coordinate on Horse Cave Quad map

Verbal Boundary Description (See continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (See continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Rachel Baum

organization Programs in Folk Studies, Western Kentucky University

street & number 1 Big Red Way telephone 270-745-5898

city or town Bowling Green state KY zip code 42101

date April 1, 2004

Property Owner

name Western Kentucky University

street & number 1 Big Red Way

city or town Bowling Green

telephone 270-745-5898

state KY zip code 42101

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1 Name of Property: Gardner House
Location: Hart County, Kentucky

=====

Narrative Description:

The Gardner House (HT 310) is a one-and-one-half story, three bay, Federal-era brick hall and parlor house with many fine architectural details. The house dates from the early nineteenth century. All four walls are laid in Flemish bond, and a molded brick cornice tops both the long façades. It has a metal gable roof and exterior chimneys on the gable ends. The interior includes many examples of classic Federal-style woodwork, with reeding a motif found throughout the house. The Gardner House is located on Western Kentucky University's 671-acre Green River Biological Preserve in a remote rural area of Hart County, Kentucky. It is situated well back from the county road and is reached via an unpaved lane. Former farm fields and pastureland surround the house, and the Green River lies downhill approximately one half of a mile to the north. Only the house itself, not the land, is included in this nomination. The house has been abandoned for approximately thirty years but retains remarkable integrity.

The house's northern façade is three bays wide. Three poured concrete steps lead up to a small concrete block porch. The door is located slightly to the east of the center of the wall. The door's asymmetrical placement reflects the two unevenly sized rooms of the traditional hall and parlor floor plan. The door leads into the hall, the larger of the two first-floor rooms. There are two 9-over-6 vertical sash windows on either side of the door, one for the hall and one for the parlor. Each window is placed approximately halfway between the door and the end of the wall. The door and windows are all topped with jack arches. Running along the top of the wall just under the overhanging roof is a molded brick cornice with ovolo and cavetto curves.

The northern façade has seen some changes over the years. Jean Bush McGuire and her brother Murl Bush, who lived in the house as children in the 1930s and '40s, and neighbor Vilma Jean Kinney, remember that a porch used to run most of the length of the northern façade.¹ The porch had decorative spindle posts and was reached via two large limestone steps. It is unknown whether the porch was original to the house. The old porch was removed and the current concrete-block porch was constructed sometime between the 1950s and 1970s. The original door has been replaced, and the jack arch above the door has been altered. Vandals have broken many of the window panes, which is true on all four of the house's façades. A white-painted wooden shed dormer, located in the center of the northern slope of the roof, was added in the 1940s. The house's original roofing material is unknown; it was replaced with metal barn roofing in the 1940s.

An exterior brick chimney is centered on the western façade. Just to the south of the chimney, the foundation is interrupted by an opening which leads to the cellar. A heavy wooden lintel supports the wall over the opening. Currently, the opening is boarded up. About halfway up the wall on the southern side of the chimney is a 6-over-6 vertical sash window. This window lacks the jack arch found on the house's 9-over-6 windows. Near the roofline, two small four-pane windows pierce the façade on either side of the chimney.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 2 Name of Property: Gardner House
Location: Hart County, Kentucky

=====

The southern façade has two exterior doors, one leading into the parlor and one leading into the hall. Both doors are topped by transoms, which in turn are topped by jack arches. A 9-over-9 vertical sash window with a jack arch is located on the hall, or eastern, side of the façade. As on the northern façade, the placement of doors and windows reflects the floor plan within. Also similar to the northern façade, the seemingly random and asymmetrical pattern of openings does contain a symmetry of its own. The window is placed approximately half way between the eastern door and the eastern end of the wall. The western door is placed approximately halfway between the eastern door and the western wall. As on the northern façade, a molded brick cornice runs the length of the wall.

The brickwork on the southeastern corner has suffered some damage. The original doors no longer remain. One of the doors dates to the twentieth century. The other is missing and the doorway is boarded up. Currently, there is no porch or steps beneath the doors on the southern facade. Vilma Jean Kinney, a neighbor since 1947, and former resident Jean Bush McGuire both speak of an ornate but dilapidated porch that used to stretch between the two doors. McGuire's mother removed it in the 1940s.² Like the former porch on the northern façade, it is unknown whether or not this porch was original to the house. The porches' Victorian-sounding detail suggests that they were later additions, however.

The house's eastern façade mirrors the western façade, except that it provides no access to the cellar.

The house's interior consists of four rooms. The parlor, the smaller first-floor room, is situated to the west. The hall, the larger first-floor room, is located to the east. A steep enclosed stairway leads from the hall up to a short central passageway on the second floor. The shed dormer, added in the 1940s, admits light into this passageway. Doors on either side of the passage open into two equally sized attic rooms.

The house's interior contains many fine examples of Federal-style woodwork. Both the hall and parlor retain their original chair rails, and a portion of chair rail is found in the western attic room. Two of the five original interior six-panel doors remain. Reeding is a motif found throughout the house. Federal-style mantels, with a reeded frieze and reeded pilasters, are found around the fireplaces in all four rooms. The two attic rooms have diminutive versions of the first-floor mantels. The downstairs windows have deep splayed openings. The southern exterior doorways, the interior doorway between the hall and the parlor, and the 9-over-6 windows in the northern and southern walls have reeded reveals. The northern exterior doorway has had its frame replaced due to deterioration, so it no longer has reeded reveals. The 6-over-6 eastern and western windows appear to date from a slightly later period, and also lack the reeding.

The house's floors, ceilings, and walls have seen the most alteration. The original floor in the hall has been replaced with narrower boards, but the parlor's wider wooden floorboards may date to the house's initial construction. The plaster ceilings have been replaced with wooden ceilings in all rooms. Much of the interior wall plaster remains, but in some areas it is missing or in poor repair.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 3 Name of Property: Gardner House
Location: Hart County, Kentucky

Integrity Evaluation

Overall, the Gardner House has impressive integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, and feeling. The Gardner house is still located where it was originally built, so it has integrity of location. Although the outbuildings that once surrounded this house are now gone and the fields are no longer under cultivation, the overall natural setting and the lay of the land retain their integrity. Located on a biological preserve, the house is not subject to development pressures or the construction of non-contributing structures.

The Gardner House has an unusual integrity of materials, design, and workmanship compared to similar Hart County houses. As is to be expected in an abandoned house of this age, however, the integrity of materials has been compromised to a degree. Although some materials have been damaged or removed, as noted in the preceding paragraphs, most of the materials survive that make up the house's significant Federal-style features, such as the masonry and Federal-style woodwork.

The house's plan, masonry, and Federal-style woodwork show integrity of workmanship and design. The floor plan has not been altered. A frame addition was added onto the south side of the house in the 1940s, and was removed at some time in the past thirty years. The most significant losses to integrity of design are the addition of the shed dormer in the northern roof and the concrete block porch on the northern façade.

Masonry features, such as the molded brick cornice, the Flemish bond, and the cut stone foundation, and Federal-style woodwork, such as the mantels, chair rail, and decorative window and door reveals, convey both design and workmanship. As with the integrity of materials, some alterations have affected the integrity of workmanship. Fortunately, when a specific element of the Federal-style detailing has been altered, there are other surviving examples for comparison. For example, even though the framework of the northern door has been replaced, the southern doorframes survive.

The integrity of location, setting, materials, design, and workmanship combine together to contribute to integrity of feeling. The rural setting and the house's surviving design and style evoke a feeling for the aesthetics of the Federal period, and of the efforts of an owner to communicate wealth and status through architecture.

The Gardner House's integrity is especially impressive when compared with three of the four other Federal-era brick hall and parlor houses described in the 1977 Hart County survey. One was already in ruins in 1977. The other two have since deteriorated so severely that they have been demolished. While the Gardner House's integrity is noteworthy on its own, it can be appreciated even more when compared with the fate of these other buildings.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 4 Name of Property: Gardner House
Location: Hart County, Kentucky

¹ Murl Bush. Tape-recorded interview with Rachel Baum. 30 April 2004, Bowling Green, Kentucky. Tapes on deposit with Programs in Folk Studies and Anthropology, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, Kentucky; Jean Bush McGuire. Tape-recorded interview with Lynne Ferguson. 3 October 2003, Cave City, Kentucky. Tapes on deposit with Programs in Folk Studies and Anthropology, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, Kentucky; Vilma Jean Kinney. Tape-recorded interview with Lynne Ferguson. 25 September 2003, Vicinity of Horse Cave, Kentucky. Tapes on deposit with Programs in Folk Studies and Anthropology, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, Kentucky.

² McGuire 2003; Kinney 2003.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 1 Name of Property: Gardner House
Location: Hart County, Kentucky

=====
Statement of Significance:

The Gardner House (HT 310) in Hart County, Kentucky, meets National Register Criterion C as an excellent example of a Federal-era brick hall and parlor house. The house is a locally significant historic resource within the context **Hart County Architecture 1800-1850**. The Gardner House shows its builder's solution to two presumably competing desires: a desire for status in the rural community and a desire to maintain a traditional house plan. The building materials and sophisticated masonry and woodwork details locate the house in the elite level of early nineteenth-century Hart County architecture, whereas the hall and parlor floor plan and asymmetrical façades look backwards to tradition rather than embracing a more fashionable symmetrical façade and central passage plan.

HISTORIC CONTEXT: HART COUNTY ARCHITECTURE 1800-1850

Architectural development in Hart County

Wealthy antebellum residents of the Pennyryle Region in Kentucky used architecture to exhibit their wealth and social status by adopting the Federal style and by building with brick rather than wood. The early architecture of the Pennyryle Region was primarily constructed of log. Around 1800, wealthy residents began to build Federal-style brick houses. As county-seat towns grew, the wealthy moved into these towns and built their homes there. Successful rural residents imitated aspects of these town houses, such as size and style, adapting them to common rural building materials. For example, they built larger log houses or Federal-style frame houses. Occasionally, wealthy rural residents continued to construct Federal-style brick houses out in the countryside.

While Hart County followed this general pattern, it is part of a sub-region that emphasized log construction even more heavily than other areas in the Pennyryle. Hart, Metcalfe, Barren, Monroe, and Allen Counties "are unrivaled in the Commonwealth as a multi-county area with such a density of . . . [log] construction."¹

The database of the Kentucky Heritage Council,² based on architectural surveys of surviving historic buildings, indicates that in the period between 1800 and 1850, log architecture dominated Hart County, especially in the rural areas. Frame houses appear to have been uncommon, and brick houses were concentrated in the county seat of Munfordville. No houses from the period before 1800 survive today in Hart County, so those resources cannot be evaluated. No stone buildings were listed in Hart County before 1850.

Listed in the database for the period between 1800 and 1825 are nine log buildings, two of which are classified as hall and parlor. Only one log building is located in the county seat. No frame buildings are listed for this period. Only two brick houses are listed. Both are hall and parlor,³ and both are located in rural areas. One of them is the Gardner House.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

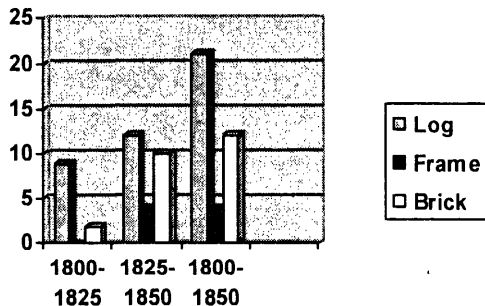
Section 8 Page 2 Name of Property: Gardner House
Location: Hart County, Kentucky

For the period 1825-1849, twelve log buildings are listed, five of which are classified as hall and parlor. All but one of these log buildings are located outside of the county seat. The database lists four frame structures, two of which are hall and parlor and none of which are located in the county seat. Of the ten brick buildings listed between 1825 and 1850, two are hall and parlor.⁴ Eight of the brick buildings are located in the county seat.

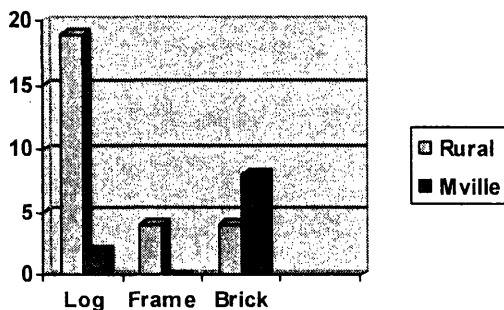
To help compare the different building materials and locations, the above information is expressed here in percentages. From the period of 1800-1825, 82 % of Hart County buildings listed in the database are log, 0% are frame and 18% are brick (sample size: 11). For 1825-1850, the number of frame and brick houses increases: 46% are log, 15% are frame, and 39% are brick (sample size: 26). Taken all together, for 1800-1850, 57% are log, 11% are frame, and 32% are brick (sample size: 37).

Of the 21 log buildings listed in the database, 91% are located outside the county seat and 9% are located in it. Of the 4 frame buildings, 100% are located outside the county seat. Of the 12 brick buildings, 33% are outside the county seat and 67% are in it. See the graphs below for a visual representation of this information.

Comparison of building materials in Hart County Architecture 1800-1850



Comparison of location of brick, log, and frame buildings in Hart County 1800-1850



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 3 Name of Property: Gardner House
Location: Hart County, Kentucky

=====

These statistics show several trends in Hart County architecture in the period between 1825 and 1850.⁵ The data reveal overall patterns in construction methods and materials. Throughout the period, log buildings appear to have been the most common. As the period progressed, however, brick and frame houses appear to have increased in frequency relative to log houses. Overall, houses built of wood remained more common than houses built of brick. Stone does not appear to have been used as a building material in Hart County during this time period.

This data also helps to characterize methods of construction in rural areas compared with the county seat. Log and frame construction appear to have been almost exclusively rural construction methods. This also indicates that wood was a primary building material in the countryside but not in town. Brick houses appear to have been more common in the county seat than they were in the countryside. Wood most likely dominated in the countryside because it was a readily available and familiar building material. Brick may have been more common in town because of the greater availability of masonry materials and specialized labor there. Building in brick was also a means of expressing wealth and high social status.

While brick houses tended to be built in town, the data show that brick houses with a hall and parlor plan tended to be a rural phenomenon. All of the surveyed rural brick houses have a hall and parlor plan, and four of the five brick hall and parlor houses (80%) are located in rural areas. Since only 33% of all Hart County brick buildings for this time period are located in rural areas, this statistical difference is significant.

These architectural trends help to place the rural, brick, hall-and-parlor Gardner House in its historical context. The Gardner House is not typical of rural antebellum Hart County architecture, which was mostly constructed of wood, especially log. This contrast indicates that the Gardner House was built by someone with higher than average financial means. In contrast to the log buildings around it, the brick Gardner House would have been quite impressive and a way of displaying wealth and social status. Although the Gardner House is atypical when compared with log construction, it does follow a pattern. Like the other rural brick houses of this time and place, the Gardner House has a hall and parlor floor plan. In contrast, the majority of brick houses in town followed other floor plans.

History of the Gardner House

A 1928 fire in the Munfordville Courthouse destroyed early Hart County records, so the history of the Gardner House is difficult to document. Judging by its architecture, the house was most likely built by a wealthy owner between 1800 and 1820. Vilma Jean Kinney, a neighbor since 1947 and a local community historian, recounts the oral tradition that slaves made the bricks on the site and helped to build the house.⁶ Jean Bush McGuire, a former resident, moved into the house at age eight in 1939 and lived there until she married in 1949. She also reports

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 4 Name of Property: Gardner House
Location: Hart County, Kentucky

=====
learning that the bricks were made on site, and associates a history of slavery with the house. She remembers log cabins that stood near the house, in which slaves were said to have lived.⁷

The owners of the house can be traced in deed records from the present back to 1951, when McGuire's father, Jim Bush, sold the house and five tracts of land. According to McGuire, he purchased the house in approximately 1938, but this deed is not recorded. All prior deeds were destroyed in the courthouse fire. According to Kinney, the Fain family had previously owned the land. When interviewed for the Hart County architectural survey in 1977, Jim Bush listed Nathan Fain as a previous owner. The 1951 deed refers to tract number three of Bush's five tracts as "The Fain Place."⁸ It was approximately 150 acres. Presumably, that tract included the brick house, and 150 acres of land were associated with the house when the Fains sold it.

When Jim Bush was interviewed for the Hart County survey, he also listed several other owners before the Fains. These include a Dr. Garvin, Dick Crane, and a Mr. Gardiner. The survey notes say, "A Mr. Gardiner owned most of the land around Northtown area at one time, possibly built this house."⁹ Kinney also speculates that the house may have belonged to a man named William Harrison Gardner. She is quick to point out that this is only an inference, not a fact.

William Harrison Gardner was born in approximately 1815 in a log house not far from the brick house. He grew up to become a prominent nineteenth-century doctor and member of the Kentucky Legislature. The log house was located on a 1796 Revolutionary War land grant originally owned by William Cann. Kinney speculates that the brick house was once part of the William Cann grant as well. The log house property and the brick house property were separately owned, adjoining properties since at least the early twentieth century, however.

Although Gardner's high social status and nearby birthplace make him appear a logical owner for the house, this explanation does not account for the construction of the brick house. William Cann built the log house in approximately 1796, and lived in it until his son-in-law Alexander Gardner purchased it in 1812. Alexander Gardner lived there until his death, and he is buried near the log house site. Neither of them appears to have built the brick house. Alexander Gardner's son William Harrison Gardner would not have reached maturity until approximately 1835. The architecture of the brick house indicates earlier construction. In addition, a local history describes Gardner as living in Woodsonville, a small community just south of the county seat of Munfordville and about six miles to the east of the brick house.¹⁰ After considering this evidence, we are left without a known owner or builder.

Hart County was not formed until 1819. Before then, the land on which the house is built was part of Barren County. If the house was built prior to 1819, it is possible that records at Barren County Courthouse can yield more information, but no such records have yet been found. None of the other names associated with the Gardner House have yielded definitive information about the house's early history.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 5 Name of Property: Gardner House
Location: Hart County, Kentucky

=====

We do not know who built the Gardner House, but we can use the house's architecture to make some inferences about the original owner/builder. The full Flemish-bond brick construction and other fine Federal-style architectural details point to a wealthy person. Local oral traditions that associate slaves with the property support this hypothesis. The documentation of three other comparable rural brick hall and parlor houses in Hart County suggests that this builder, though not a typical rural resident, was operating within an architectural style that was shared by other builders of similar wealth and social class.

Potential Meanings of the Gardner House

According to the architectural context described earlier, as an antebellum brick house located in a rural area, the Gardner House is clearly somewhat unusual. What motivated its owner to build in brick? In *The Pennyryle Cultural Landscape*, Charles Martin writes that "next to politics, architecture was the principal means of demonstrating one's status in early Kentucky."¹¹ A brick house, especially in the countryside, announced that its owner was successful and should be accorded respect. Not content to make a statement with brick alone, the builder of the Gardner House chose to use full Flemish bond, molded brick cornices, glass transoms, and fine interior woodwork to reinforce his message. The house continued to impress neighbors well into the twentieth century. Kinney describes the deep splayed windows as fortress-like and remembers a reaction she had to the house in the 1940s: "I thought those were the tallest ceilings I had ever seen in my life – and they might have been."¹² At that time, many of the neighbors still lived in log houses.

The statistics given earlier indicate that rural antebellum builders of brick houses in Hart County chose hall and parlor house forms over other possible floor plans. While we cannot know for sure, this choice of floor plan may have been a way for wealthy rural builders to walk the fine line between hierarchy and egalitarianism. Martin notes that some early Kentuckians chose house styles that "concurrently suggested both a degree of social leveling and indicated one's degree of financial success in relation to others."¹³ The traditional and familiar asymmetrical hall and parlor house form, rather than the more recent and fashionable symmetrical center passage plan, may have been a way for rural builders of brick houses to show that they were successful without creating an unacceptable degree of vertical social distance between themselves and their neighbors.

Martin indicates that rural Federal-style brick houses in the Pennyryle Region tended to be located on highly fertile farm land or near a road. Kinney recounts an oral tradition that tells of an old county road and mail route that used to run past the Gardner House.¹⁴ The Green River, another important option for transportation, lies about half a mile to the north of the house. Two of the other rural brick Hart County houses are similarly located near the river.

Many of the people who settled in Kentucky came from Virginia. One confusing aspect of the house may be a feature that is seen in many Virginia plantation houses: these houses were often designed with two "fronts," one that faced towards the river and one that faced towards the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 6 Name of Property: Gardner House
Location: Hart County, Kentucky

=====
road. It is unclear which of the two main façades of the Gardner House was originally intended as the “front.” Given that all four walls were laid in Flemish bond, and that both the northern and southern sides have a molded brick cornice, the original owner may have used them both as main entrances.

Of the two sides, the southern side is slightly more elaborate. Its two exterior doors have glass transoms, while the single door on the northern side does not. The northern, eastern and western sides include many bricks with glazed headers. These are not laid in a decorative pattern, however, and examples of flawed bricks used on these three sides may indicate that the bricks with glazed headers were also considered substandard. This would point to the southern façade, which does not incorporate many flawed or glazed bricks, as the more “finished” façade.

Oral history reveals that in the 1930s both the northern and southern façades had long porches,¹⁵ which probably dated to the Victorian era. Jean Bush McGuire, who lived in the house as a child in the 1930s and ‘40s, remembers a large ornate wooden porch which stretched between the two doors on the southern façade. Her mother removed this porch because it was rotten. A historic photo of the Gorin House, a comparable brick hall and parlor house, shows a similar porch on its two-door side. McGuire, her brother Murl Bush, and neighbor Vilma Jean Kinney remember a long porch on the northern façade as well, which was reached via large limestone steps. Kinney said the posts were “pretty” and appeared to have been made on a lathe. Ultimately, the Bush family decided to make the northern side of the house the “front,” and Mr. Bush built a kitchen onto the southern side. This configuration continued as long as the house was occupied, with a later resident removing the old porch on the northern side and building the currently standing concrete-block porch sometime between the 1950s and ‘70s.

Comparison Properties

In addition to the Gardner House, there are four other antebellum brick hall and parlor houses found in the Kentucky Heritage Council’s Hart County survey files.¹⁶ All four houses were surveyed in 1977. The Alvey Cox House (HT 21), placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980, remains standing and in livable condition. It is located in the heart of Munfordville, about six miles northeast of the Gardner House. The Jemima Davis House (HT 248) and William Henry Thompson House (HT 167) have been dismantled. The Davis House was located near the town of Canmer, about sixteen miles northeast as the crow flies from the Gardner House, and the Thompson House was located near the town of Uno, about nine miles southeast of the Gardner House. The Gorin House (HT 75), recorded as being “in ruins” in 1977, is currently unaccounted for. Survey records show its location just west of Woodsonville, about four miles northeast of the Gardner House.

All but the Thompson House were built close to the Green River. Three of the houses are rural; the fourth, the Cox House, is located in the county seat of Munfordville. While its context is slightly different, the Cox House is still useful for purposes of comparison.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 7 Name of Property: Gardner House
Location: Hart County, Kentucky

=====

These houses shared many architectural features with the Gardner House. Three were one-and-a-half stories tall, with the Cox House being one story. All four had similar cut stone foundations. All but the Cox House had the molded brick cornice, referred to in one of the survey files as "the Munfordville cornice." All the houses have jack arches above the windows.

The original fenestration was similar in all four houses. All of the houses had small attic windows on their gable ends on either side of the chimneys. Most of the houses originally had either 9-over-6 or 6-over-6 vertical sash windows on the first floor.

The interior woodwork varies from house to house. The Davis house had a strikingly similar Federal-style reeded mantel. Chair rails were found in at least one room in the Davis House and the Thompson House.

The Gardner House is fancier than these other houses in several ways. It appears to be the only all Flemish bond house. The Davis House had Flemish bond only on its main façade. The Cox House and Thompson house have/had common bond, and the brick bond on the Gorin house is unclear from the survey photos. Only the Cox House has glass transoms above its doors. The Gardner House's ornate Federal mantels in the attic are unusual. The other houses did not have splayed window frames, or reeded window and door reveals.

Overall, the Gardner House shares many characteristics with these other antebellum Hart County brick hall and parlor houses, but it is the most elaborate in its detailing. It combines many of the features found in the four other houses, thereby including the most examples of Federal-style architectural detail.

Conclusions of the Gardner House's Significance

The Gardner House is important to us today as a window into Kentucky's past. It helps us to understand the possible motivation of its owner/builder and others like him. While the Gardner House was not typical of rural antebellum Hart County architecture, comparison with three other comparable rural houses shows that it was not an anomaly. These houses may have been an effort by wealthy rural residents to convey their social status through fashionable architectural style, and at the same time to maintain a traditional hall and parlor floor plan. This retention of the traditional plan may have served in part to mediate the social difference between themselves and their neighbors.

There are now only two antebellum brick hall and parlor houses remaining in Hart County: the Alvey Cox House in Munfordville and the Gardner House. The Cox house, already listed on the National Register, lacks many of the rich Federal-style details found in the Gardner House. Its town setting also gives it a slightly different context and meaning than the rural Gardner House. While the Gardner House is significant on its own merits, it is especially important to recognize it now that it is the only surviving documented rural antebellum Federal-era brick hall and parlor house in Hart County, Kentucky. It alone can give us tangible architectural access to this aspect of Hart County history.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 8 Name of Property: Gardner House
Location: Hart County, Kentucky

=====

¹ Marty Perry. Stockton-Ray House National Register Nomination. (Frankfort, Kentucky: Kentucky Heritage Council, 1992) Section 8, p. 2.

² Kentucky Heritage Council. Kentucky Historic Resources Inventory database. (Frankfort, Kentucky: Kentucky Heritage Council, 19 February 2004).

³ The database actually lists the brick Thompson House (HT 167) as having a T-plan. Its survey file describes it as having a hall and parlor plan, however. The latter information has been used in this nomination.

⁴ The database lists the Gorin House (HT 75) as having a central-passage plan. Its survey file describes it as having a hall and parlor plan. See note above.

⁵ The sample size is small, and survival rates of buildings may vary according to materials and location, so these conclusions are speculative.

⁶ Vilma Jean Kinney. Tape recorded interview with Lynne Ferguson. 25 September 2003, Vicinity of Horse Cave, Kentucky. Tapes on deposit with Programs in Folk Studies and Anthropology, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, Kentucky.

⁷ Jean Bush McGuire. Tape-recorded interview with Lynne Ferguson. 3 October 2003, Cave City, Kentucky. Tapes on deposit with Programs in Folk Studies and Anthropology, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, Kentucky.

⁸ Hart County Deed Book 68, pp. 447-448, 26 December, 1951.

⁹ Kentucky Heritage Council. File for HT 310, Gardiner House. Kentucky Historic Resources Inventory. (Frankfort, Kentucky: Kentucky Heritage Council, May 1977).

¹⁰ Roy Cann. *Hart County, Kentucky, Some Pioneer and Other County History*. (Munfordville, Kentucky, 1975) p.12.

¹¹ Charles E. Martin, *The Pennyryle Cultural Landscape*. (United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service and Kentucky Heritage Council, 1988) p. 226.

¹² Kinney, 2003.

¹³ Martin, p. 226.

¹⁴ Kinney, 2003.

¹⁵ Murl Bush, Tape-recorded interview with Rachel Baum. 30 April 2004, Bowling Green, Kentucky. Tapes on deposit with Programs in Folk Studies and Anthropology, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, Kentucky; Kinney, 2003; McGuire, 2003.

¹⁶ Kentucky Heritage Council. File for HT 21 Alvey Cox/Thomas Balin Munford House, File for HT 75 Gorin House, File for HT 167 William Henry Thompson House, and File for HT 248 Jemima Davis House. Kentucky Historic Resources Inventory. (Frankfort, Kentucky: Kentucky Heritage Council, May 1977).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 1 Name of Property: Gardner House
Location: Hart County, Kentucky

=====
Bibliography:

Bush, Murl. Tape-recorded interview with Rachel Baum. 30 April 2004, Bowling Green, Kentucky. Tapes on deposit with Programs in Folk Studies and Anthropology, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, Kentucky.

Cann, Roy. *Hart County, Kentucky, Some Pioneer and Other County History*. Munfordville, Kentucky, 1975.

Hart County Deed Book 68, pp.447-448, 26 December, 1951.

Kentucky Heritage Council. File for HT 21, Alvey Cox/Thomas Balin Munford House. Kentucky Historic Resources Inventory. Frankfort, Kentucky: Kentucky Heritage Council, May 1977.

Kentucky Heritage Council. File for HT 75, Gorin House. Kentucky Historic Resources Inventory. Frankfort, Kentucky: Kentucky Heritage Council, May 1977.

Kentucky Heritage Council. File for HT 167, William Henry Thompson House. Kentucky Historic Resources Inventory. Frankfort, Kentucky: Kentucky Heritage Council, May 1977.

Kentucky Heritage Council. File for HT 248, Jemima Davis House. Kentucky Historic Resources Inventory. Frankfort, Kentucky: Kentucky Heritage Council, May 1977.

Kentucky Heritage Council. File for HT 310, Gardiner House. Kentucky Historic Resources Inventory. Frankfort, Kentucky: Kentucky Heritage Council, May 1977.

Kentucky Heritage Council. Kentucky Historic Resources Inventory database. Frankfort, Kentucky: Kentucky Heritage Council, 19 February 2004.

Kinney, Vilma Jean. Tape-recorded interview with Lynne Ferguson. 25 September 2003, vicinity of Horse Cave, Kentucky. Tapes on deposit with Programs in Folk Studies and Anthropology, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, Kentucky.

Martin, Charles E. *The Pennyrile Cultural Landscape*. United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service and Kentucky Heritage Council, 1988.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 2 Name of Property: Gardner House
Location: Hart County, Kentucky

=====

McGuire, Jean Bush. Tape-recorded interview with Lynne Ferguson. 3 October 2003, Cave City, Kentucky. Tapes on deposit with Programs in Folk Studies and Anthropology, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, Kentucky.

Perry, Marty. Stockton-Ray House National Register Nomination. Frankfort, Kentucky: Kentucky Heritage Council, 1992.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 10 Page 1 Name of Property: Gardner House
Location: Hart County, Kentucky

=====
Verbal boundary description:

The area proposed for listing is less than one acre, found on parcel 16 of Hart County Property Valuation Assessor (PVA) map 26. The entire parcel 16 is 110 acres. For precise depiction of the area proposed for listing, see sketch maps of property, figure 1 and figure 3. The boundary proposed for listing includes only the Gardner House and a 10' margin around the building.

Boundary justification:

The 10' margin around the building is a conventional protective surrounding, consistent with the view of the house's architectural significance.

Gardner House
Hart Co, KY
Portion of Parcel #16, PVA Map 26

Figure 1

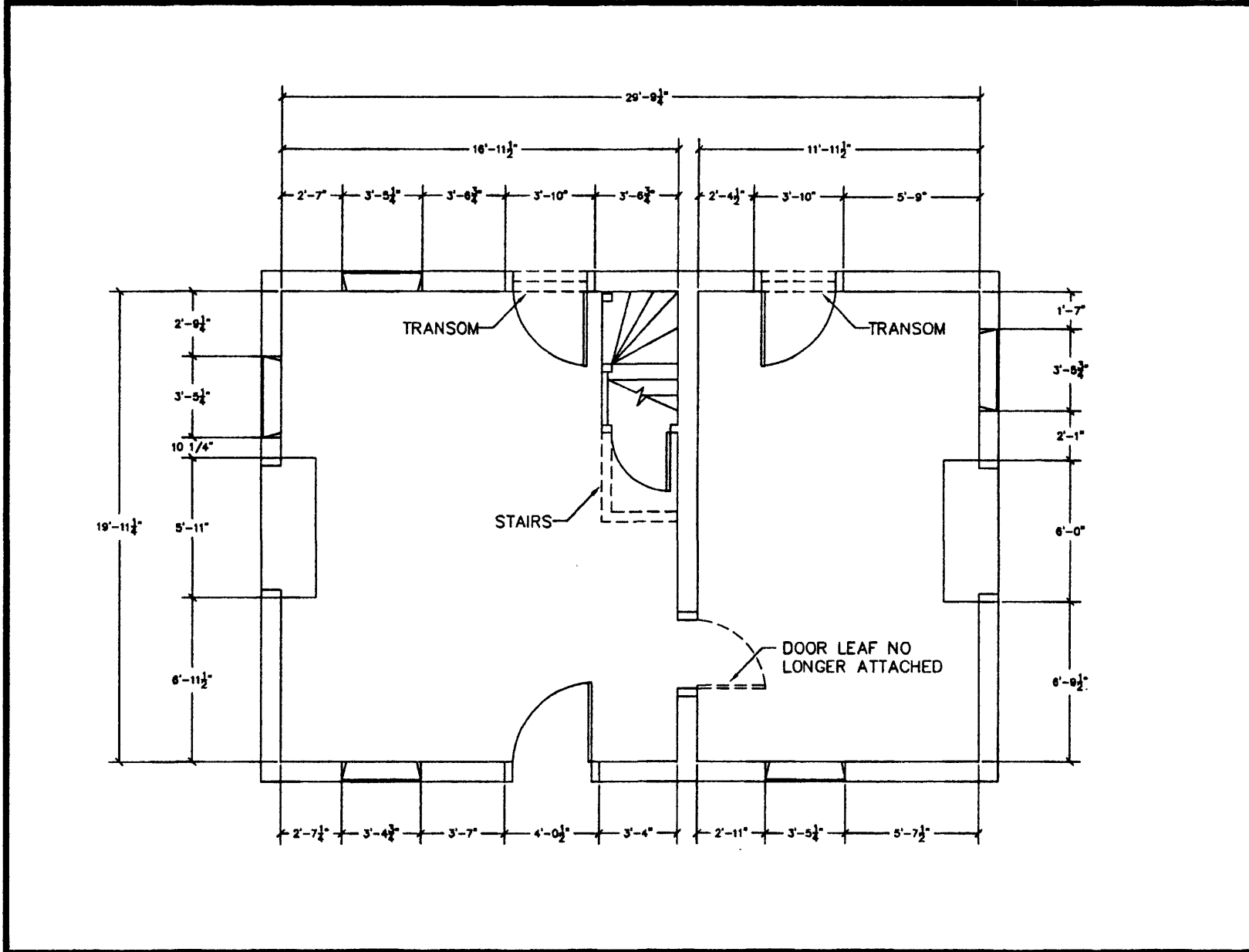
- Sketch map
- Verbal boundary description map




W. Walters Rd



N Scale 1:150



WESTERN KENTUCKY



Folk Studies Program
Western Kentucky University
1 Big Red Way
Bowling Green, KY 42101
Internet: www.wku.edu

Project Title
HART COUNTY HOUSE

Revisions

Number	Description	Date

Designed
Drawn **TRACY PAGE**
Checked
Approved

Date 9/11/03

Submittal X

Scale 1/4" = 1'-0"

Sheet Title
FLOOR PLAN

Sheet Number
A1
of 1

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

PHOTO IDENTIFICATION

Name of Property: Gardner House
Location: Hart County, Kentucky

=====

Same information for all photos:

Name: Gardner House

Location: Hart County, Kentucky

Location of Negatives: Programs in Folk Studies and Anthropology, Western Kentucky
University, Bowling Green, KY

Photo-specific information:

1. Setting. Photo taken from the gate where the farm lane intersects with W. Walters Road. Camera facing NW. Rachel Baum, 2/28/2004.
2. Southern and eastern facades. Camera facing NW. Rachel Baum, 3/24/2004.
3. Northern and western facades. Camera facing SE. Rachel Baum, 3/24/2004.
4. The hall, the eastern interior room. Camera facing SW. Rachel Baum, 3/24/2004.
5. The parlor, the western interior room, showing the mantel and the northern window. Camera facing NW. Sarah Milligan, 9/11/2004.