Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

10-300 (Rev. 10-1A) PHO507580 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

DATA SHEET

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

FOR NPS USE ONLY NOV 181977

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The farm of "Delta" with its outbuildings lies on a level area of a gently sloping hill in open farmlands southwest of Lexington between Armstrong Mill and Tates Creek Pikes. The original approach was from Tates Creek Pike, across gently rolling land and up a steeper hillside through the farmyard and along the east side of the present house to the front. Later deed references in 1899 give evidence to the change of access, now the present and only one, from Armstrong Mill, which travels along a tree-lined hedgerow on the right and rises up a small slope to the east of the front of the house. Located as it is on the side of a hill, the crest of which is high enough to exclude views beyond, and facing a valley which has never been divided and sold, the compound is isolated visually in the countryside and the front of the house faces unobstructed views of the open farmlands.

The compound consists of the main house of brick; slave quarters at the rear (south of the main house) also of brick; behind and to the west, a brick granary; to the west of the main house and higher up the hill, a recent wood barn; and once a brick hemp walk (torn down about twenty years ago); to the east a brick smoke house; and beyond, a brick barn along side of which once stood a brick carriage house (destroyed about ten years ago); in the valley below (east) a two-story brick barn; and a quarter of a mile away on a hill to the left and south, the family graveyard used by the Young family (no longer able to be found). Behind the house is a large spring, still flowing, with an original, vaulted limestone spring house built into the side of the hill (now dilapidated), and in the rear of the property near Tates Creek Pike, the clay pits from which the brick was made for all the buildings on the property.

The main house (Photo #1), although a typical ell plan with Greek Revival portico, was not originally planned as such and was constructed at three separate times with later renovations in the 1850's and some very minor changes in the last twenty years. The front section with portico (built sometime after 1841 but not later than 1851 and the last major construction) consists of two rooms and central hall on the first story above a full basement and the same on the second, except for the later enclosure of the upper hall space on the front of the house.

The design is carried out in the Greek Revival style with attention to economy of means which has limited the richness of design without destroying the elegance of the simple, straightforward stylistic characteristics. The brick mass (Photo #2), one room deep and five bays wide on a raised basement of cut stone, and with gable roof, is

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW **PERIOD** __ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC __COMMUNITY PLANNING __PREHISTORIC __LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE __RELIGION __LAW __CONSERVATION __1400-1499 __ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC _SCIENCE XAGRICULTURE __1500-1599 __ECONOMICS __LITERATURE __SCULPTURE XARCHITECTURE __EDUCATION __MILITARY __1600-1699 __SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN __ART __1700-1799 __ENGINEERING __MUSIC __THEATER __COMMERCE X 1800-1899 _EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT __PHILOSOPHY __TRANSPORTATION __POLITICS/GOVERNMENT __1900-__COMMUNICATIONS __INDUSTRY __OTHER (SPECIFY) __INVENTION -

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

"Delta", with its main house and dependencies, is a rare example in Fayette County of a nearly complete and preserved mid-nineteenth century farm compound. Further enhancing its unique qualities are the use of brick for the outbuildings, stylistic continuity of their design throughout, the great amount of attention to detail and high degree of craftsmanship not normally displayed in such purely functional buildings as the barns and granary. In addition, the continued occupation and use of the buildings for agricultural purposes since the 1840's without drastic renovations in accordance with the changes in agricultural pursuits and technology further enhance the singular qualities of the estate.

Original ownership of the land is difficult to ascertain from deed book references. But by 1817 or 1818, the land was purchased by John Hart (son of Nathaniel Hart, a member of the Transylvania Company) who built "Hartston" (see the National Register form for Woodland (Hart-Featherston House), Fayette County, approved August 28, 1975). In 1841. John Hart sold two hundred acres for eight thousand dollars to his son, Edwin N. Hart, which included the Federal style house which presently forms the ell of the main house. Later in 1843, John and Mary Hart gave another two hundred acres, adjoining Edwin's property, to their son. Within the time period from 1841 to 1851, Edwin Hart built the Greek Revival addition to the earlier home and constructed the brick outbuildings. Most likely, he and his brother, John H. Hart, builder of "Hartland," who owned the property adjoining Edwin's on the eastern boundary of the present parcel, constructed their homes at the same time. Clay Lancaster, in Ante Bellum Houses of the Bluegrass, compares the two houses, referring to them as examples of simple, yet dignified Greek Revival homes, where economy was employed without lack of quality of workmanship. Furthermore, "Delta" together with "Hartston" (John Hart), "Hartland" (John H. Hart), "Belair" (Thomas Hart Shelby, Jr.,), and "Richland" (Thomas Hart Shelby) form a group of notable antebellum houses in the southwest portion of Fayette County, built by members of the historically notable Hart family. enterm Cosumo in Grande, adamente di commedia à

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 2

unrelieved except for the reflected pilaster at each edge of the porch. The front of the house has received the normal, special treatment: the brick pattern is Flemish bond (as opposed to common bond on the sides and rear). The basement and porch of cut stone is smooth with bush-hammered edge trim which returns on the side to meet the low profiled, rock faced stone here, in the rear and of the basement below. The central section (Photo #1) consists of a pedimented porch with square brick supports on square stone bases with Tuscan capitals, both of which are also used on the pilasters. The supports carry the entablature of frieze and architrave which dies as it meets the main block and only the cornice molding is carried across the front of the house and returns on the corners.

The front doorway (Photo # 1) consists of a three light transom over the five paneled door with sidelights of five stacked panes with wood panels below within a frontispiece of simple pilasters with rectangular Tuscan capitals flanking the sidelights and round columns in antis with similar capitals between sidelight and door which support an entablature with dentils between architrave and frieze and cornice above (all of wood). The later addition of a balcony with cast iron railings is above and within the portico. On the second story, the original triple section window with a central, larger double-hung sash, nine over six, and five stacked panes of the sidelights is centered above the door and leads to the small room at the top of the stairs. The windows of the front are double-hung, nine over six, with flat brick arches above, simple wood frames and sills. The original shutters and hinges are present on all windows but the original hold-backs are missing.

The interior remains intact as it was planned and all the original woodwork, mantles, presses, staircase and moldings exist. In the hall the front door mirrors the outside detailing with its use of chanelled pilasters with Tuscan capitals. Surrounding the entire doorpiece is shouldered architrave trim with cornice above. Shouldered architrave moldings with cornice surround five paneled doors which lead to the two public rooms on the first level. The open string staircase (Photo #3), opens well with two runs has solid cherry newels, balusters and handrail, and is adorned with simple brackets. The stair woodwork design shows evidence of the building having been

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 3

constructed near the beginning of the Greek Revival period because of its small, delicate balusters remaining from the Federal period design. High baseboards in the rooms on both stories and the use of double-paneled doors (Photo 4) on the second story show more use of Greek Revival details. Presses (Photo 5), double-doored (each of the two panels) are located to one side of a fireplace in all but the right lower downstairs room. Mantels again show the simplicity of the economic design of the Greek Revival style. They are rectangular with architrave trim, pilasters on plinths with Tuscan capitals, with a plain frieze and simple mantel shelf which is repeated in all four rooms. The moldings surrounding the presses are square cut, butted and unadorned, as are the moldings on the doors upstairs.

Before the Greek Revival addition, the main house consisted of two brick buildings (Photo 6), a two-story Federal style structure (referred to from the middle section) with a brick now on asaddition on the south which now forms the rear section of the back ell. The once front door of this building is at ninety degrees to the present main entrance and faces east to the valley below. The land slopes more steeply in front of this section and to the rear rises gradually providing now, as it did then, a level ground for farmyard purposes. This short, rectangular middle section at right angles to the front, built no later than 1818, evident from deed records and stylistic characteristics, consists of a single room on all three levels, basement, first and second stories. A quarter turn enclosed staircase with winders leads to the second floor, and an outside staircase incorporated into the addition to the left of this block leads to the rough cut stone full basement (connected to the front section). This very simple brick structure, all of common bond, retains its original details and design except for the opening to the front section on its right. The simple window frames are pegged, six over six, with flat brick arches above. The original front door, six-paneled (cross and open Bible) remains as well as its box lock mechanism (Photo 7). Inside, the woodwork has not been changed to conform with the Greek Revival detail in the later front section. Here the plain wainscot and chair rail the doors have simple, butted wood trim and the rectangular mantelpiece with shelf and press to the left are of similar design.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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AUG 1 0 1978

Delta; Eden

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 4

To the left of this section (Photo 6) is a rectangular one-story brick addition of two rooms whose general proportions of plan to height and overall plan measurements conform to those of a typical Kentucky log cabin which perhaps it replaced shortly after the construction of the middle section.

This building history conjecture is based upon similar occurences (as mentioned by Clay Lancaster and evident in the house immediately across from this property on Armstrong Mill Road) when pioneers replaced their log cabins or added to them structures of more formal design and of more durable materials after their initial settlement of the land.

This rear section (Photo 6), with its chimney on the short end of the back wall, was and still is the kitchen for the main house. Without fireplaces in either of the two front sections of the basement, the functional design and finishes, including the original board and batten door of the rear room, the formal design of the middle section and lack of any but very minor changes provide the basis for the interpretation and conclusions as to the building history of construction and use.

Shortly after the last major construction, or perhaps contemporary with it, the balcony within the portico (Photo 1) and porches were added to the sides of the rear ell (Photo 2). Along the former front (of middle section) on the east cast iron porch structure of three unequal bays with shed roof was built with a roof cresting above. Later a rectangular wood structure for screening was placed behind this without interferring with or changing the porch design. On the right in the back, a wooden porch with shed roofs was constructed and enclosed the sides of both rear sections.

The remaining brick dependencies, because of their design, appear to have been built at the same time as the Greek Revival addition to the main house. The slave quarters (Photo 8) behind the house on the south (to which has been added a frame extension) are composed of recessed brick wall panels (of common bond), three on the front and back and two at the exposed end, formed by the use of pilasters which are placed on either side of the door and on the corners. The window

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 5

on the south wall is centered in the middle panel, opposite the door. The chimney in the center at the end is flush with the pilasters and thereby divides the wall into the two panels. At the top the panels are corbeled for three courses and form the wall support for the gabled roof. Later the frame addition was added together with another chimney at the other end. Presently the structure is used for storage.

To the left and east of this is the granary (Photo 9), another brick structure of common bond with the same panel detailing and bay divisions: three on the front and two on the sides. Again, as in the slave quarters, the brick courses are corbeled at the top of the wall and support a gable roof. This very elegant functional building is noteworthy for its handsome proportions and excellent condition. In the central front bay is the original heavy plate iron, hand wrought, rivited, reinforced door with an access window at the top below the corbeling, and in the pediment formed by the gabled end, a blind window for decorative purposes. Inside the building there exists a heavy timber structure forming a second level and staircase. At present, the building is used for grinding grain and the machinery sits on the lower level and grain enters from a hole placed in the roof.

To the left and east of the house is the original smokehouse (Photo 10) to which has been added a wooden shed on the left side. This is a very simple, plain brick building of common bond with the original board and batten door centered on the gable end facing north. On the right side near the roof level is a ventilation slit with iron bars across it. The structure now is used for storage purposes.

Behind this and to the east, placed perpendicular to the slope of the hill, is the very handsome, delicately proportioned mule bank barn of brick with stepped foundation of rough cut stone (Photo II). The front, like the slave quarters and granary, is three bays wide, two brick panels, each with a window centered in the bay with flat brick arches above, recessed between piers flanking the central door and at the corners, and corbeled at the roof line like the others and has a gable roof. The lower level, at the opposite end accessible from the fields below, extends half the length of the barn above and is

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DATE ENTERED

AUG 1 0 1978

Delta; Eden

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 6

two bays wide, with similar brick details like the granary. A door is centered in each panel and ventilation windows are located above. off center near the central pier. The side facing the north of the house has nine bays: three wider bays at the front, divided by pilasters and recessed panels filled with two levels of diamond-shaped brick diaper work; six smaller bays, divided by pilasters with one narrow unadorned slit window centered in each bay, and on the lower level at the lower end, two bays with the same slit windows. The opposite side, on the south, has three original narrow bays, the first (near the front) blank, the two others with slit windows like the north wall. The rest of the wall is reconstructed with concrete block infill with slit windows, replacing the brick which was damaged from two separate fires which luckily were extinguished before destroying the entire barn. Since the concrete block infill has slit windows corresponding to the stalls within, it may be assumed that the entire north wall was composed of the repetitive narrow bay dimensions with a centered, slit window (except for the previously mentioned first bay). Inside the barn on the left (corresponding to the diaper work of the wall) is fodder storage, and beyond that, stalls in alignment with the slit windows and a partial loft is on the second level. It is interesting to note that the decorative diaper work is found on the side of the barn facing north as does the present front entrance of the main house), and probably was placed there in response to its being in a more prominent visual position than the other side which never had any of this attention.

In the valley below to the east is the other original brick structure (Photo 12), some type of storage facility for farm purposes. Because of three fires at separate times and major reconstruction in concrete block and wood, its original purpose is unknown. Presently it is used to shelter livestock.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Delta; Eden
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

Perhaps overextended by construction costs, Edwin and his wife, Elizabeth Hart, sold the four hundred acres to Walter C. Young of Jessamine County in 1851 for only seven thousand dollars. The only mention of the Young family in histories and public records, outside of deed and will references is by Robert Peter, in History of Fayette County, Kentucky. He states that the area of East Hickman had been known since 1806 for hemp growing and that Walter Young began operating a hemp factory there shortly before the Civil War, relying upon the slave labor for workers. Since 1851, the house and land has been in the Young family with the exception of the years between 1898 and 1912. Walter Young willed his house and surrounding farm to his adopted son, child of his second wife, who promptly sold it to Annie C. Ware, from whom a grandson of Walter Young, Charles Land, bought the farm at auction in 1912. Presently the farm and house are owned and operated by his son, Walter Land.

Throughout its history, the farm has been properly maintained, prosperous, and relatively untouched by modern events or its owners, who have preferred to leave it as it was built and to quietly farm the fertile lands around it.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Delta; Eden

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 2

Fayette County Deed Books: 114, p. 56; 27, p. 389; 21, p. 349; 19, p. 154.

Fayette County Will Books: 6, p. 613; R, p. 66.

Form No. 10-300a (Rev. 10-74)

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10

PAGE

ADDENDUM

Approximately 10 acres.
UTM Reference points:

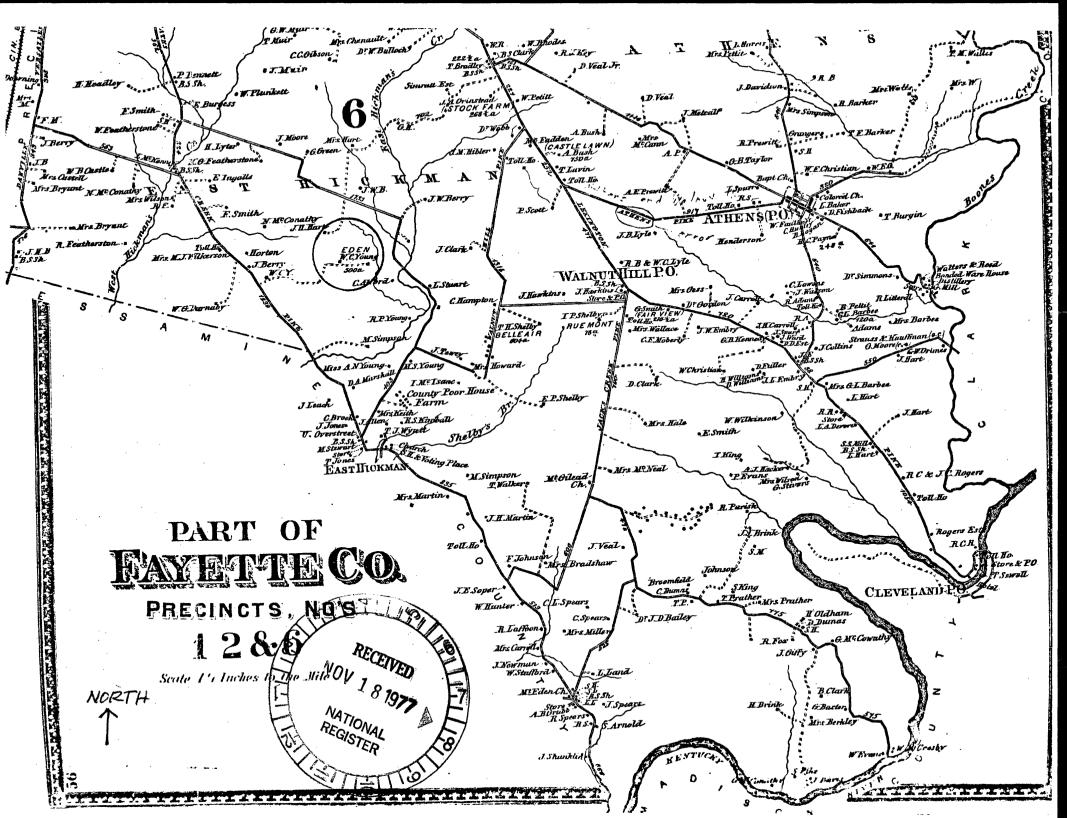
A.16/722760/4203460

OK

B. 16/722770/4203260

C.16/722540/4203250

D. 16/722540/4203450



Delta; Eden
Lexington
Fayette County
Kentucky

AUG 1 0 1978

Atlas of Bourbon, Clark,
Fayette, Jessamine and
Woodford Counties, Ky.
1" = 1 mile 1877

Map 2. Delta circled in black.