**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR** NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES **INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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2 LOCATION		4		
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Viley Road	V 0		NOT FOR PUBLICATION	
CITY, TOWN	-		CONGRESSIONAL DISTR	СТ
Lexington ~	La de contra de la c	VICINITY OF	06	
STATE		CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Kentucky		021	Fayette	067
3 CLASSIFIC	ATION			
CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRES	ENTUSE
DISTRICT	PUBLIC		AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	X_PRIVATE	UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL	PARK
STRUCTURE	ВОТН	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	X_PRIVATE RESIDEN
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS
OBJECT	IN PROCESS	YES: RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
	BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED	INDUSTRIAL	TRANSPORTATIO
		X.NO	MILITARY	XOTHER: Tenan House
4 OWNER OI	FPROPERTY			<u></u>
NAME				
Mrs. Ada L. Rie	ce			
STREET & NUMBER		······································		
Danada Farm, C	old Frankfort Pike			
CITY, TOWN			STATE	
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5 LOCATION	I OF LEGAL DESCR	<b>IPTION</b>		
COURTHOUSE,				
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6 REPRESEN	TATION IN EXIST	ING SURVEYS		
TITLE				
Historic Survey	and Plan			
DATE				· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
1970		FEDERAL	STATE X_COUNTYLOCAL	
DEPOSITORY FOR				
SURVEY RECORDS	City-County Planning	Commission		
CITY, TOWN	, ,		STATE	
Lexington			Kentucky	

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

\_\_\_DETERIORATED

UNEXPOSED

RUINS

. ,

EXCELLENT	
GOOD	
<b>X</b> FAIR	

UNALTERED

X ALTERED

CHECK ONE

CRIGINAL SITE

\_\_MOVED DATE\_

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

The house known as Lewis Manor is situated on a gentle knoll on Viley Pike off Leestown Pike, a major thoroughfare into Lexington (see photo 1). Rolling hills characterize the countryside and the area viewed from the house is presently all in farmland. However, large industrial development is located nearby to the east. Adjacent to the house to the west is a steep declivity from which a spring emerges before a series of limestone shelves. The stream flows southward into a shallow valley which is also crossed by a slightly raised railway line running approximately east-west in front of the house and the Viley Road running north-south east of the house. Furthermore, tall supports for power lines straddle the valley. Nevertheless, the house, related barns, and surrounding fields retain a rural atmosphere.

The house as it now stands consists of a main block constructed probably shortly after 1800, and a series of lateral wings with a tetrastyle portico on the south front (see photos 2 & 3). The portico has four round supports containing double entases with fillets at windowsill level; there is evidence of early railings also at this level (see photo 4). Such disregard for orthodoxy extends to the use of a double abacus and a quarter-round base mold set on a high plinth. The six-paned window sashes probably replace earlier twelve-paned sashes which would have been better related to the size of the panes in the lunette over the door and the fenestration of the wings. The main north and south entrances appear identical with recessed reeded frames, wooden "keystones," and square corner (or impost) blocks, and finely proportioned panelled double doors.

"Free planning of the wings," states architectural historian Clay Lancaster, "seems to have been prompted by the fulfillment of immediate needs, rather than the desire to impress through adherence to formal balance" (Lancaster, p. 61). There are three wings; one to the east and two to the left of the main block and a kitchen unit recessed from the west wing (see photos 5 & 6; map 5 showing floor plan). The central block interior contains a central hall with two chambers to each side. The double parlors to the right of the hall are connected by small double doors; each marked with the witch's cross. There is a fireplace in both chambers to the left of the hall with panelled presses built into the wall at the right of the fireplace in the back parlor (see photo 9). Two steps off the back left parlor lead down to a passageway that gives entrance to a bedroom in the connecting wing between the main structure and another wing in which there are two bedrooms.

The west wing, composed of two rooms with fireplaces back-to-back between closet and vestibule, is the earliest section of the house. A brickfront wall has been filled in between the presumably early unit and the main mass, which are alike in having hipped roofs (see photos 2 & 6). The kitchen, with a large enclosed chimney on the far west wall, lies beyond, recessed considerably from the west wing.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

SPECIFIC DAT	ES ca. 1800 and later	BUILDER/ARCH	HITECT Unknown	ht
	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC AGRICULTURE ART COMMERCE COMMUNICATIONS	CONSERVATION ECONOMICS EDUCATION ENGINEERING EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT INDUSTRY	LAW LITERATURE MILITARY MUSIC PHILOSOPHY .XPOLITICS/GOVERNMENT	SCIENCE SCULPTURE SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN THEATER TRANSPORTATION OTHER (SPECIFY)
PERIOD	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	EAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	IECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	RELIGION

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Lewis Manor is one of several early nineteenth-century houses located immediately northeast of Lexington on the outskirts of town. The unostentatious but elegant brick structure, set on a slight rise overlooking the virtually unspoiled rolling hills of the Bluegrass, serves as an example of the refined country houses characteristic of early 19th-century dwellings once common to the area. The house was built by one of Lexington's early settlers, Thomas Lewis, a colonel in the Revolutionary War, a member of the 1792 convention that framed Kentucky's first constitution, a representative in Kentucky's first legislature, and one of three magistrates who, in 1792, composed the first Fayette Court of Quarter Sessions.<sup>1</sup> Lewis had also served in the first Virginia House of Burgesses and was on the Committee of Safety of the Colonies.

#### History

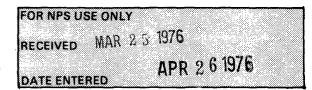
The land on which Lewis Manor was built was first claimed and improved by Joseph Lindsay in 1775, but, one year later, in his absence, was laid claim by Isaac Shelby (later first governor of Kentucky), for his father Evan. Lindsay lost his land and, in 1782 at the Battle of Blue Licks, the last battle of the Revolutionary War, he also lost his life.<sup>2</sup>

In the middle 1780s Colonel Thomas Lewis and his wife, Elizabeth Payne Lewis of Fairfax County, Virginia, emigrated to Kentucky. According to Lexington historian Frank Dunn, Lewis was accompanied by his Revolutionary War comrade, Major Henry Payne. Lewis and Payne had jointly purchased the 2,000-acre French and Indian War military grant of Evan Shelby prior to coming to Kentucky. They both selected sites for their residences and were living in them, so the deed states, when the two men divided the land in 1788. Major Payne took the southern one thousand acres crossing the Old Frankfort Pike, and Colonel Lewis the northern tract, crossing the Leestown Road. Major Payne built a handsome two-story brick residence (still standing although considerably altered) and Colonel Lewis, a one-story Federal house.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Robert Peter, <u>History of Fayette County, Kentucky</u>, p. 64. <sup>2</sup>Carolyn Murray Wooley, <u>The Founding of Lexington 1775-1776</u>, p. 16-17. <sup>3</sup>Frank Dunn, The Lexington Herald, June 28, 1952, p. 6.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRA	PHICAL REFER	RENCES		
Lancaster, Clay. Ante B	ellum Houses of the	e Bluegrass.	Lexington: Univers	sity of Ky. Press 1961
Lexington Herald, June 2	8, 1952.			
Simpson, Elizabeth. Blue	egrass Houses and	Their Tradit	ions. Lexington: Tr	ansylvania Press, 1932
Wooley, Carolyn Murray.	The Founding of	f Lexington,	1775-1776. Lexingt	on: Lexington-Fayette
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Lexington			Kentucky	
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As the designated State Historic Pres	servation Officer for the Na	ational Historic Pr	eservation Act of 1966 (P	ublic Law 89-665), I
hereby nominate this property for in		egister and certify	that it has been evaluat	ed according to the
criteria and procedures set forth by t	ne National Park Service.	1 1 1.1	mall	•
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## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM



Lewis Manor				
CONTINUATION SHEET	ITEM NUMBER	7	PAGE 2	

The east wing is smaller with a chimney flush on the east wall and contains a single large chamber and a small room to the northeast rear in the lean-to, both entered from a roofed area open at the back (see photo 5).

No early outbuildings remain. The structure is presently in a deteriorated condition and in need of immediate restoration efforts.

#6 Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky
1971
Kentucky Heritage Commission
104 Bridge Street
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

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# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Lewis Manor					
CONTINUATION SHEET	ITEM NUMBER	8	PAGE	2	

After settling on the Shelby land, Colonel Lewis and his family continued to live there for approximately forty-five years. The original house, built immediately upon their arrival, was replaced about 1800 by one that stands today. It is the birthplace of many of the Lewis children, and the one in which all the daughters were married. It was there that Anne Holland Conyers Lewis, known as Nancy, married General James Garrard, son of the second governor of Kentucky. On December 18, 1793, she left the home of her father to live at Fairfield, her husband's place in Bourbon County that adjoined Governor Garrard's estate, Mount Lebanon, on Stoner Creek.<sup>4</sup>

At Lewis Manor, too, was performed the marriage ceremony of Sally Anne Lewis and General Green Clay, the parents of General Cassius Marcellus Clay, well-known abolitionist and former U. S. Minister to Russia (see the National Register nomination form for his house, White Hall, near Richmond, Madison County, Kentucky, approved March 11, 1971). After the death of General Green Clay, his widow, who had made her home at White Hall, became the wife of Jeptha Dudley who was previously married to her sister, Betsy Lewis.

Kitty, another of the daughters of Colonel Lewis and his wife, married her cousin, Henry Payne, and lived on the estate adjoining Lewis Manor. The large stone that marked the boundary line between the Lewis and Payne places remains there today, bearing the initials of Henry Payne and Thomas Lewis who had once quarreled over the division of the property.

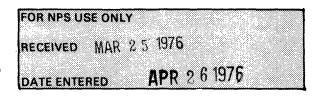
During a trip to Virginia in 1809 Colonel Lewis died at the Olympian Springs in Bath County, Kentucky, and his body was brought back and interred in the little graveyard at Lewis Manor.<sup>5</sup>

On September 11, 1829, the property was transferred to Thornton and Douglas Lewis, two of the Colonel's sons. Elizabeth Payne Lewis had died, as is noted in Fayette County Court Deed Book # 5, page 402, that "being part of the farm late residence of Elizabeth Lewis, dec."  $^{6}$ 

<sup>4</sup>Elizabeth Simpson, <u>Bluegrass Houses and Their Traditions</u>, pp. 315-318. <sup>5</sup><u>Ibid.</u> <sup>6</sup>Deed Book #15, p. 402.

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Lewis Manor				
CONTINUATION SHEET	ITEM NUMBER	8	PAGE	3

In checking deeds, it appears that by March 28, 1838, the farm was owned by a Ben Taylor, who sold it on this date to Abraham Van Meter. It remained in the Van Meter family until 1866. The Van Meters were and are a prominent family in central Kentucky and still are large landowners throughout the Bluegrass region. Up until 1915, Lewis Manor changed hands four times, and in 1915 was sold by Colonel E. B. Ellis to Mr. Thomas Smith and his wife Catherine.

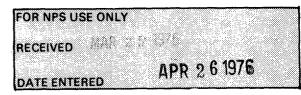
Thomas Smith changed the name of Lewis Manor to Kilmore, naming it in honor of a township in County Roscommon, Ireland, from where he had come. Kilmore was owned by the Smith family until 1934. For sixteen years the house and land were owned by a Victor Fister, who in 1950, sold them to the late Mr. Dan Rice. The present owner is his widow, Mrs. Ada Rice. By 1950, the main farm residence of the prominent house farm known as Danada was the Major Henry Payne two-story brick house, with Lewis Manor relegated to a tenant house for farm workers.

#### Architecture

Lewis Manor belongs to a type of one-story pavilioned Federal houses in Kentucky that also includes Rose Hill (The John Brand House, listed on the National Register December 30, 1974) and William ("Lord") Morton House (listed June 10, 1975) in nearby Lexington and also Ridgeway (the Massie-Churchill-Humphrey House, listed on April 11, 1973) in St. Matthews near Louisville, Kentucky. At Lewis Manor a hipped-roof main block with two pairs of rooms flanking a central hall (here divided by a slender arch) is extended by asymmetrical wings, one probably incorporating an earlier structure, linked by chambers recessed at the rear. Yet tall chimneys and generously proportioned openings provide a sense of grandeur, while the details of millwork are more delicate and refined.

Lewis Manor has a particularly interesting portico on the south front, with four wooden columns and two pilasters of a peculiar bulbous form. Clay Lancaster compares this porch to that of the Cleveland-Rogers house on the opposite side of Lexington, about which he draws a further analogy to the Carroll House (Homewood, 1798-1800) near Baltimore (<u>Ante Bellum Houses</u>, p. 42). In spite of its deteriorated condition, the manorhouse retains a considerable air of distinction.

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

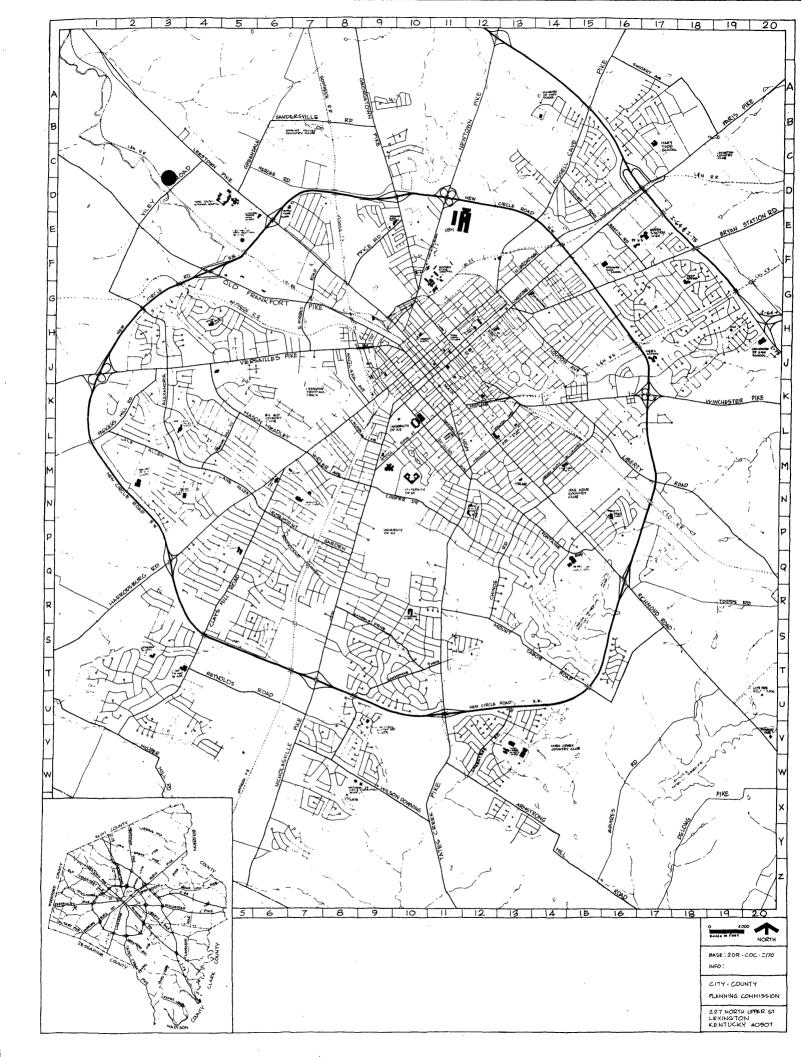


Lewis Manor CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 2

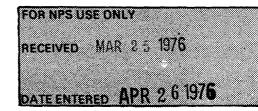
Peter, Robert. <u>History of Fayette County, Kentucky</u>. Ed. by William Henry Perrin. Chicago: O. L. Baskin & Co., 1882.



Form No. 10-301 (Rev. <u>1</u>0-74)

> UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY MAP FORM

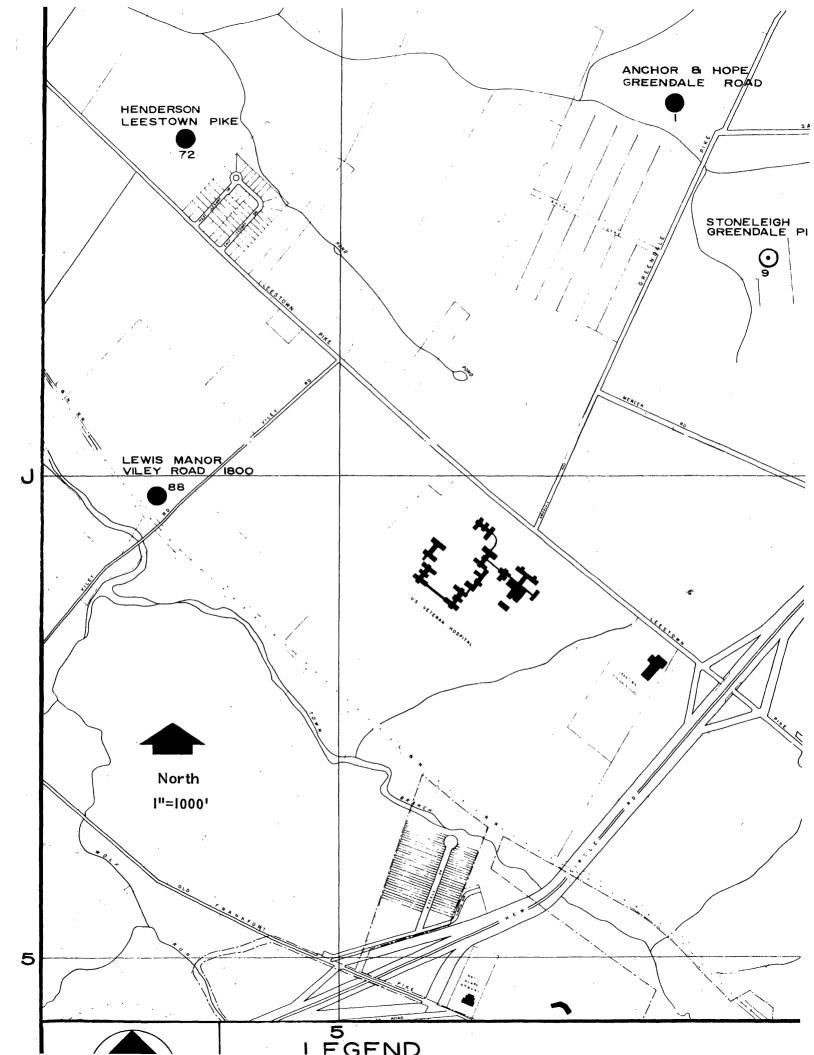


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NATIONAL REGISTER

### SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

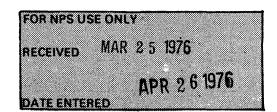
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Form No. 10-301 (Rev. <u>1</u>0-74)

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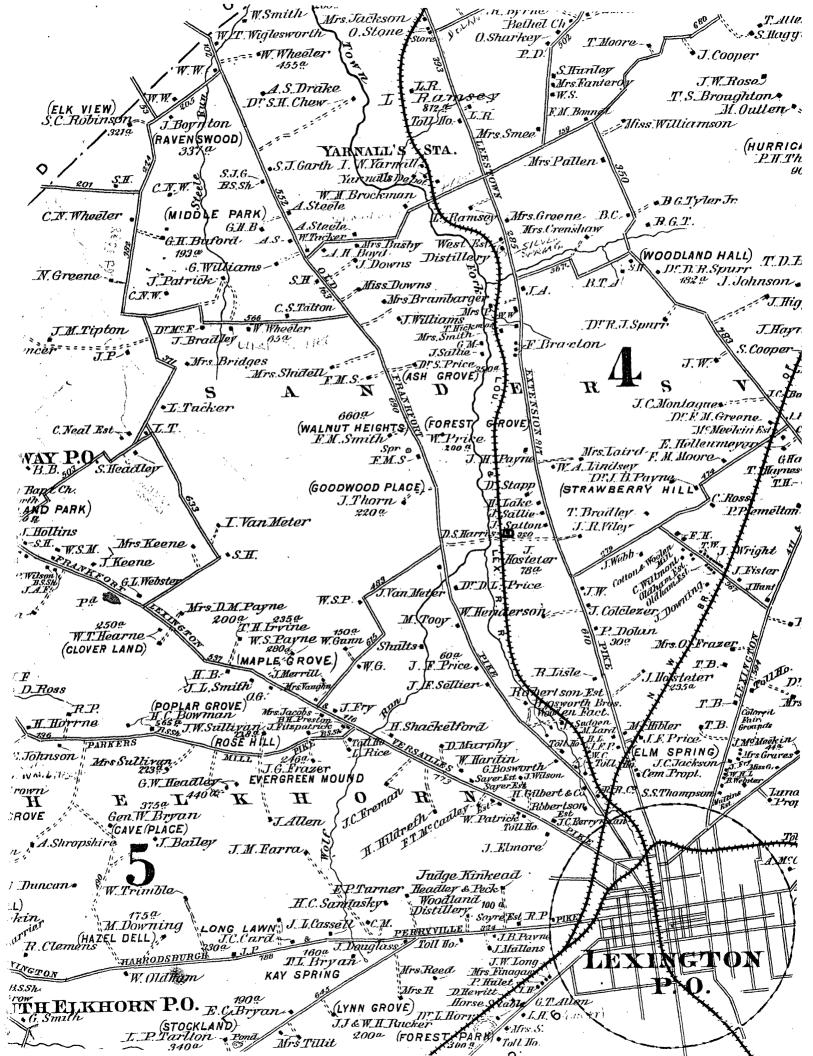
# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY MAP FORM





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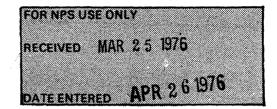


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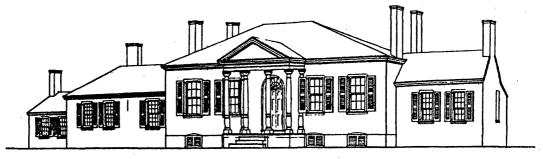
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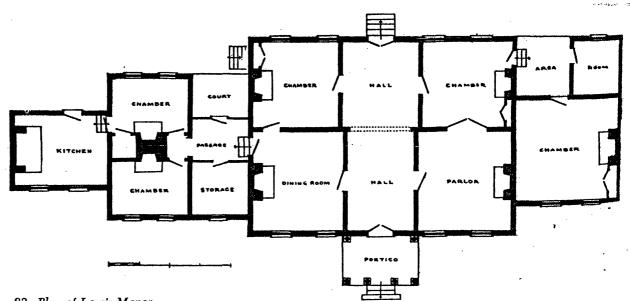
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### ANTE BELLUM HOUSES



82. Lewis Manor.

Clay Lancaster, Ante Bellum Houses of the Bluegrass (Lexington, 1961), p. 60.



83. Plan of Lewis Manor.

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Form No. 10-301 (Rev. 10-74)

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# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY MAP FORM

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