

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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RECEIVED FEB 12 1979
DATE ENTERED JUL 3 1979

79003560

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 15

Culbertson House (139), 1520 Chestnut Drive. Dwelling, 1876.

Description:

The form of the Culbertson House is essentially that of the two Means houses on Bath Avenue, a symmetrical, double-pile, center-passage house with a large rear ell. A broad bracketed cornice breaks into a pediment above a slightly projecting central single-bay pavillion, and a square four-story tower rises on the east wall. Wall openings are emphasized with Classical surrounds and floor levels are indicated by belt courses. On the west wall, windows are grouped into a three-bay temple front motif, with brick pilasters and a plastered pediment. The interior is finished with mahogany trim and first-floor rooms are 12'9" in height.

Significance:

In 1876 iron industrialist Thomas Means built this house on a large park-like lot south of Lexington Avenue as a wedding present for his daughter. The scale is larger than that of most Georgian-plan houses in the area, and the house is encrusted with an unusually profuse variety of Italianate features. Both scale and decoration are indicative of the elegance with which the early industrial leadership of Ashland could afford to amuse itself. The Culbertson House is in fact one of the most monumental nineteenth-century houses in eastern Kentucky.

Owner: H. E. Martin, M.D., 1520 Chestnut Drive, Ashland, Kentucky.

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