2// OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

RECEIVED 413

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts Sections for the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter NAT for not applicable. For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and substance from the instructions. Place additionar entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

. Name of Property
nistoric nameClifton Country Club
other names/site number Kamp Kaydet / Wd-280
2. Location
street & number 1190 Buck Run Road 🗆 not for publication N
city or town Versailles 🗵 vicinity
state Kentucky code KY county Woodford code 239 zip code 40383
3. State/Federal Agency Certification
□ 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant □ nationally □ statewide □ locally. (□ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)  □ David L. Morgan, SHPO □ and Executive Director □ 10 - 95 □ Signature of certifying official/Title □ Date □ State Historic Preservation Office/Kentucky Heritage Council □ State of Federal agency and bureau  □ In my opinion, the property □ meets □ does not meet the National Register criteria. (□ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
State or Federal agency and bureau
4. National Park Service Certification
hereby certify that the property is:  Date of Action  If entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.  Date of Action  If the National Register See continuation sheet.  Date of Action  If the National Register See continuation sheet.  Date of Action  Register  National Register  National Register
National Register.  removed from the National Register.
□ other, (explain:)

Clifton Country Club		Woodfor	d, Kentucky		
Name of Property		County and	State		
5. Classification					
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)  Category of Prope (Check only one box)		Number of Res (Do not include pre	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)		
🛛 private	Duilding(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing		
<ul><li>☐ public-local</li><li>☐ public-State</li></ul>		3	2	buildings	
public-Federal	☐ structure	1		sites	
	□ object		1		
		· .		objects	
		7	3	Total	
Name of related multiple p (Enter "N/A" if property is not part	roperty listing of a multiple property listing.)	Number of cor in the National	ntributing resources pr Register	reviously listed	
N/A		0			
6. Function or Use					
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)		Current Function (Enter categories from			
Social/Clubhouse		Domestic/Multiple Dwelling			
Recreation and Culture/Sports Facility		Agriculture/Subsistence/Agricultural			
		<u>Outbuil</u>	ding		
			44		
				<del>, ,</del>	
7. Description					
Architectural Classification		Materials		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
(Enter categories from instructions)		(Enter categories from	* *		
Late 19th and Early		foundation Woo		1	
American Movements:	Adirondack Rustic	walls <u>Wood</u>	Board and Bat	ten	
		A l 3 to		<del></del>	
		roof <u>Asphalt</u>			
		other <u>Limesto</u>	ne		

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Record # \_\_

8. St	atement of Significance	
(Mark	cable National Register Criteria "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)
for Na	tional Register listing.)	_Social History
X A	Property is associated with events that have made	
	a significant contribution to the broad patterns of	
	our history.	
ПВ	Property is associated with the lives of persons	
	significant in our past.	
□С	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	D : 1 (0) 10
	distinguishable entity whose components lack	Period of Significance
	individual distinction.	1921-1930
	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield,	
	information important in prehistory or history.	1 - 10 1 t
Cuito	ria Considerations	
	"x" in all the boxes that apply.)	Significant Dates
_		1921, 1929
Prope	erty is:	
□ A	owned by a religious institution or used for	
	religious purposes.	
	removed from its original location	Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
⊔В	removed from its original location.	N/A
$\Box$ C	a birthplace or grave.	
	a complete.	Cultural Affiliation
⊔ ט	a cemetery.	N/A
□ E	a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	
□ <b>F</b>	a commemorative property.	
□ G	less than 50 years of age or achieved significance	Architect/Builder
	within the past 50 years.	Unknown
Narra	tive Statement of Significance	
	in the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)	
	ajor Bibliographical References	
Bibile (Cite th	ography ne books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one	or more continuation sheets.)
•	ous documentation on file (NPS):	Primary location of additional data:
	preliminary determination of individual listing (36	
	CFR 67) has been requested	☐ Other State agency
	previously listed in the National Register	☐ Federal agency
Ш	previously determined eligible by the National Register	<ul><li>☐ Local government</li><li>☐ University</li></ul>
	designated a National Historic Landmark	☐ Other
	recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey	Name of repository:
r m	#recorded by Historic American Engineering	
4 1	reconnection cosmon Albertalia i minimienti	

Clifton Country Club Name of Property	Woodford, Kentucky County and State
10. Geographical Data	
Acreage of Property16.1	
UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)	
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Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)	See continuation sheet
<b>Boundary Justification</b> (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)	
11. Form Prepared By	
name/title Robert M. Polsgrove	
organization	date March, 1995
street & number503 Wapping Street	telephone (502) 564-7250
city or town Frankfort	state KY zip code 40601
Additional Documentation Submit the following items with the completed form:	
Continuation Sheets	
Maps	
A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the pro	perty's location.
A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having	large acreage or numerous resources.
Photographs	
Representative black and white photographs of the pro-	perty.
Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)	
Property Owner (Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)	
Man and Man William D. Bunko. Man	and Mrs. Robert Polsgrove (see above)
street & number 1190 Buck Run Road	
city or town Versailles	
City or town	. state zip code
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for a	pplications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate

a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing

properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain

instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Clifton Woodfor	COUNTATIONAL PARK SERVICE

#### Description

The Clifton Country Club (WD-280) is a sixteen acre complex of buildings, structures, sporting facilities, and designed rural landscape located alongside the Kentucky River one and one-half miles south of the village of Clifton in Woodford County. The complex consists of a large two-story frame clubhouse built in the Adirondack Rustic style, a three-room board and batten cottage, a Delco house, a small tool shed, a five bay horse stable, a water storage structure, and sandy beach on the Kentucky River. These historic features are linked to each other by a paved road and various foot and bridal paths. Approximately eleven of the acres are landscaped open space around the main buildings and five acres are forested. The nominated area consists of a district of 16.1 acres and includes 3 contributing buildings, 2 non-contributing buildings, 3 contributing structures, and 1 non-contributing structure. The landscape is also a contributing element. (A list of contributing and non-contributing resources is provided at the end of this section.)

#### <u>Overview</u>

Clifton, once known as Woodford Landing, is located five miles from Versailles, the seat of Woodford County. Clifton was the shipping center for the county on the Kentucky River. Buck Run Road provided access to small farms and river camps along a narrow strip of alluvial land adjacent to the Kentucky River. At the end of this road, a large farm located in the bend of the Kentucky River provided an opportunity for the construction of new riverfront camps and a social club which would provide access to the recreation opportunities provided by the Kentucky River and its environs.

#### Kentucky River Gorge Area

Woodford County is located in the seventeen county Inner Bluegrass subregion of the Bluegrass Region. The Kentucky River serves as the western and southern boundary of the county. The Kentucky River Gorge, a 400-foot deep trough running across the Bluegrass Region, provides a unique and historically appealing landscape context for Clifton and other communities tucked into the valley area adjacent to the river.

The gorge of the Kentucky is characterized by steep hills or cliffs on either side of the river with an occasional narrow band of alluvial soil on one side. The cliffs provide spectacular landform backdrops as well as isolation and privacy. At the same time, the lock and dam system built by the Commonwealth and further developed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers provides slack water which is conducive to swimming, boating and other water sports.

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Clifton Country Club Woodford County, Kentucky

#### **Woodford County**

On the plateau adjacent to the gorge of the Kentucky River and its tributaries is the beginning of the rolling, highly productive farmland of the Inner Bluegrass Region. Much of Woodford County contains the high quality land sought by pure bred horse and cattlemen and almost all of its land produces tobacco and other highly valued crops. Building on these natural attributes, Woodford County has developed a very properous farm economy. Earlier in this century, some of the social leaders in the community undertook the development of a new social club at Clifton where the picturesque Kentucky River and its gorge could provide the appropriate surroundings and features for the development of a country club.

The country club developers chose a property which is basically rectangular located adjacent to the Kentucky River with its long sides running away from the river in a southeasterly direction. It features a sand beach riverfront known as Redmon's Sand Bar on Kentucky River Navigation Charts. A steep bank rises from the sand bar to a flat cleared terrace of approximately 150 feet in width. The elevation of the terrace is approximately the normal flood stage of the river, which made the construction of buildings impractical. The area was cleared and provided a place for field games while ensuring a clear view of the river from the porch of the country club, which is sited at the edge of the second river terrace. The second terrace is twenty feet higher in elevation than the first, being separated by a steep bank running the width of the property.

The country club building, caretakers cottage, the tennis court and the supportive outbuildings were all located on the 250 wood-wide, level, second terrace. From this flat second alluvial terrace, the balance of the property is a gently sloping hill which slopes up and away from the riverfront to an area approximately 150 feet higher in elevation where the road enters the property (see Site Plan).

#### Clubhouse Description

The contributing buildings in the complex include the Clifton Country Club clubhouse which is a two-story frame building sited along the edge of a high terrace to provide a spectacular view of the Kentucky River. In keeping with its rustic context in the Kentucky River Gorge (see Photo #1) characterized by steep forested hills and limestone cliffs, the country club applied the concepts of rustic architecture throughout. The clubhouse is built entirely of wood and stone and utilizes rough cedar limbs as porch posts and railings. The floors, walls and ceilings in all rooms utilize tongue and groove pine boards.

The exterior features board and batten surface and a twelve-foot deep porch (see Photo #2) which surrounds the building on three sides. Running 110 feet in length on the river side, and almost sixty feet on either end of the clubhouse, this porch is the defining architectural

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Clifton Country Club Woodford County, Kentucky

feature of the building. Covered entirely with a roof supported by rough cedar posts connected by railings of the same material, the porch provides almost 2000 square feet for social activities (see Photos #3 & 4). On the river side, the area under the porch was enclosed for use as men's and women's dressing rooms and showers--separated by a masonry wall.

The front or land side of the clubhouse originally had a two-story open porch with the open primary stair connecting the two floors. A set of French Doors on either side of the massive stone chimney provides access to the focal room in the building, the  $30' \times 40'$  club room. The club room provides a large open space for a variety of social activities. Its focal point is a massive mantel and firebox measuring five feet high by six feet across. On the opposite, river side, casement windows provided a view of the river. To the north, a large dining room measuring  $24' \times 24'$  opened off the club room on the river side (see Photo #5). On the landward side of the dining room are a laundry room and the kitchen. All of these rooms are finished with pine tongue and groove boards with a shellac finish. Located adjacent to the kitchen on the north side is a separate enclosed porch with two  $4' \times 4' \times 3'$  ice storage bins where ice brought from town could be stored. The kitchen/dining room area is a one-story wing off the main block.

On the south side of the central club room is an area equal in size and exterior dimensions to the dining block which originally provided three bedrooms for rental to males (see Photo #6). A small common bathroom was also located in this area. Six bedrooms for women are located on the second floor above the social room. All of the bedrooms on the two floors were originally finished in the same way as the social room and dining room. As a seasonal use building, the country club did not provide heating sources for any of the small rooms.

#### Original Support Buildings

Two small board and batten cabins were built in conjunction with the clubhouse in 1921. Located immediately northeast of the country club house approximately forty feet from the main building was a two-room board and batten caretaker's house which no longer stands. It may have been of similar construction to the second still-standing cottage (Photo #8) built parallel to the river at the edge of the high terrace approximately 100 feet from the northwest corner of the main building. The surviving cabin is a three-room structure of boxed-frame construction technique. It measures 12' in width by 36' in length with a long porch on the river side (see Photo #9). During the 1930s, a 10' x 14' room frame addition with board and batten siding, consistent with the original, was added (Photo 10).

The original complex also contained two small square pyramidal roofed  $10' \times 10'$  outbuildings which are located on either side of the surviving cabin. The first originally provided electrical power for the complex from a delco battery system it housed (Photo 11).

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Clifton Country Club Woodford County, Kentucky

The second (Photo 12) provides a storage place for tools used in general maintenance. The original plan also had a single tennis court located on the level area beginning approximately 100 feet northeast of the main building. In recent years, the former tennis court area has served as an open space within the complex.

#### Support Structures and Landscaping

The contributing support structures include a five-bay stable built perpendicular to the river facing toward the clubhouse (see Photo 13). Measuring  $60' \times 12'$  with a four-foot deep covered space adjacent to the paddock doors, the stable is divided into four 12' wide stalls with the fifth bay containing a tack room. The stable features board and batten siding to match the other buildings (Photo 14).

Another important original structure in the complex is the water storage building (Photo 15) located on the ridge on the eastern side of the property. Water was pumped to this site from cisterns and wells where it was stored and provided appropriate pressure for distribution to the buildings in the complex and to six private camp buildings developed by Mrs. J. O. Shouse on land adjoining the country club to the northeast. (These camps were developed at the same time as the country club by Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Shouse who rented them to families and/or fraternities and sororities from Lexington and Central Kentucky.) The water storage building is a circular concrete walled structure measuring eight feet in diameter with a conical cedar shingled roof. This structure continues to stand although it is no longer functional.

The relatively rough but mown hillside located to the southeast of the clubhouse once provided opportunities for the relatively undeveloped game of golf which was played before modern courses with sand traps, water hazards and manicured greens were developed. No golf course features such as tees or greens are discernible today (Photo 16).

The road into the country club grounds was planned and built in the 1920s so that the visitor obtained impressive views of the house and clubhouse as he proceeds toward it. A broad vista of the entire complex and its grounds initially greets the visitor (Photos 17 & 18). Groves of trees break and reshape the view as the road winds down the hillside and then makes a direct approach to the clubhouse through an elevated, tree-lined corridor. A considerable amount of earth moving was required to carry out the road design. Although the country club provided paths to the beach and a floating platform for swimming and boating, these features no longer exist.

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#### **Alterations and New Construction**

The Clifton Country Club has experienced three substantial changes in the years since it ceased to be a country club and was adapted for use as a family home and summer camp for boys. While these changes are visible, they are either sympathetic to the original architecture and landscape in two cases or have limited visual impact in the third.

The most substantial change was the expansion of the clubhouse during the 1930s by the second owners, Mr. and Mrs. E. K. Reams; the Reams endeavored to convert the clubhouse into a residential building while retaining the character of the original building. They did this by walling in both floors of the two-story porch on the entrance side using board and batten in the exterior and tongue and groove pine boards on the interior (Photo 19).

Above the dining room a new 16' x 24' room was built with a connection to the second story hall. A stone chimney was added next to the dining room which also provided a stove flue in this new room above (see Photos 3 & 5). On the south side, two more stone two-story chimneys were built to provide the first floor bedrooms with open fireplaces. Upstairs, a twelve-foot extension was built directly above the original first floor and wall. This allowed for doubling the size of two rooms and the addition of a second bathroom and a large screened in sleeping area was built above the newly added first floor space (see Photo 6). The second floor addition continued the use of wood for wall and ceiling surfaces. In contrast, for the first time non-wood surfaces were used on the new first floor walls--plasterboarding. This was the area designed as the bedrooms for the owner's family in the remodeled clubhouse.

By using the same wood and stone materials as in the original block and by retaining the same pitch in the expanded roof, these additions retained the basic character of the original building.

To the northeast of the house, the Reams built a four-bay garage structure (Photo 20) just beyond the tennis court later in the 1960s. Sixty feet beyond the garage near the property edge, a mobile home was installed by a later owner (see Photo 21, right). Neither detracts from the visual integrity of the site.

Today, the Clifton Country Club retains a considerable degree of integrity of setting, feeling, design, workmanship and materials. It effectively conveys the ambience of the early twentieth century rustic country club recreational complex (Photo 22).

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Clifton Country Club Woodford County, Kentucky

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#### Contributing and Non-contributing Resources Summary

Contributing Building - Clubhouse

Contributing Building - Cabin

Contributing Building - Stable

Contributing Structure - Delco House

Contributing Structure - Maintenance Shed

Contributing Structure - Water Storage Facility

Contributing Site - Landscape

Non-contributing Building - Garage Non-contributing Building - Trailer Non-contributing Structure - Well house

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Clifton Country Club Woodford County, Kentucky

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#### Statement of Significance

The Clifton Country Club (WD-280) is significant under Criterion A in the area of Social History for Woodford County and the Inner Bluegrass Region of Kentucky during the Between the World Wars period. It is significant under Criterion A in relation to the development of social clubs.

#### Country Clubs

The Roaring Twenties were a special era in American history. Victory in World War I, a booming economy, and the beginning of the great social experiment of Prohibition provided the social context in which a new form of social organization could thrive. The country club, where well-to-do American families could meet, play, dine, and enjoy the company of their peers in an exclusive setting, became the rage in the Roaring Twenties.

The American country club phenomenon began in the late 19th century as small groups of socially elite families built imposing clubhouses and adjacent sporting fields in suburban locations. Boston's The Country Club was the first of these clubs which provided facilities and activities for all members of the family. Most of the larger cities in the United States already had exclusive gentlemen clubs located in or near their financial districts where the local male establishment could gather in privacy for conversation, cards, billiards or dining. But the country club provided a setting for newly wealthy families to retreat from contact with the lower socio-economic classes. Country clubs allowed the whole family the opportunity to spend their leisure time in the company of their peers (Gordon, "The Country Club").

Suburban country clubs were built in the population centers across the United States in increasing numbers in the pre-World War I era. The country club provided the wealthy with a suburban retreat where a new class consciousness could be developed. In the early years, most country clubs provided tennis and croquet. A smaller number of clubs also provided polo, golf, and swimming facilities. It would be well into the era between the World Wars before golf courses were consistently provided by country clubs.

In Kentucky, 16 country clubs had been built in the years prior to World War I including 4 in Louisville, 1 in Lexington, and 1 in the balance of central Kentucky (Muldoon, "Kentucky Golf").

When the Roaring Twenties began, the nation had approximately 2500 clubs which would increase to 4500 by 1929 and then shrink again by 2000 as numerous clubs failed early in the years of the Great Depression (Peretz, <u>America in the Twenties</u>).

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#### History of the Clifton Country Club

The Clifton Country Club was one of those clubs which was formed during the wave of club formation in 1920-21 and which collapsed in 1929 after the Stock Market Crash. It was chartered in June 1921 as the Clifton Country Club (<u>The Woodford Sun</u>, July 15, 1921) although it was known also as the Woodford County Country Club. It was briefly revived in 1929-30 as the New Clifton Country Club and failed after less than a year of operation.

Versailles remained the small governmental seat of a predominantly agricultural county with an established land owning gentry and an expanding horse industry that attracted investors from other states. The location of its new country club was not suburban like most but tucked away in a remote valley, at the end of a dead end road, six miles away. It had over 150 charter members, of whom a majority were from Woodford County, but a substantial minority came from other central Kentucky communities.

The Clifton Country Club was also the social center of a significant summer camp community in Clifton. Thirteen substantial Adirondack rustic camp buildings were built along Buck Run Road as the twenties began. These two-story, wide porched structures were operated by the Shouse and Cogar families and rented by the week to families and groups. Fraternities and sororities at the University of Kentucky, Georgetown College and Transylvania University were major users. A few of the camps were located on the opposite sides of the river in Anderson County with access through the country club (Ruby Betts, The Woodford Sun, January 1982).

#### Adirondack Rustic Architecture in Kentucky

The summer camps and the country club in Clifton are a significant concentration of Adirondack Rustic architecture in central Kentucky. While Kentucky had fewer of the Adirondack Rustic camps than more affluent states to the north and east, the style achieved a limited degree of popularity in the 1920s. Harvey Kaiser defines the Adirondack Rustic Style as using "native materials and designs in the context of the natural environment" (Kaiser, "The Adirondack Rustic Style").

Logs were the basic building blocks used in the first Adirondack camps built in the Adirondack mountains area in the late 19th century. They were further characterized by the use of decorative rough woodwork, uncut stone, and other rustic materials and devices. Monumental hunting lodge fireplaces were a focal point. The larger camps "took on the appearance of small settlements . . . with kitchens, icehouses, barns, workshops, carriage houses, and storerooms" (Kaiser, "The Rustic Adirondack Style").

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Clifton Country Club Woodford County, Kentucky

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The Clifton Country Club complex had most of the attributes of the classic Adirondack camp as defined by Kaiser: local materials, log structural and decorative uses, monumental stone fireplace, and the appearance of a small settlement. The clubhouse was laid out following the room organization and definition delineated by Charles Wenderhack in his definitive work from the era, <u>Golf and Country Clubs Design and Construction</u> (New York, 1929).

The Clifton Country Club remains as one of the few surviving links to the country club concept of an earlier era in Kentucky. Most of the pre-World War II country clubhouses have been replaced by more modern facilities.

This survival is the result of a number of events and factors. Location at a distance from population centers in an area that retains numerous buildings and the ambience of the early twentieth century was one important factor. An equally important factor undoubtedly was the long term ownership and care provided by Col. and Mrs. Gordon Betts who purchased the property in 1937 and used it as a summer camp for military school boys known as Kamp Kaydet until the 1970s. A summer camp was perhaps the most viable, least destructive adaptive use of the country clubhouse which could have been contemplated. After his retirement as Principal from Millersburg Military Institute in the 1970s, the Betts made Kamp Kaydet their year-round home and discontinued the summer camp operation. Fortunately, they remained committed to a philosophy of retaining the basic character of the place without adding modern features and conveniences. The new owners are committed to retaining the basic character of the Clifton Country Club while upgrading the wiring, plumbing and heating systems with a minimum of visible change.

#### Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary is shown on Woodford County Property Identification Map as Parcel 52 (see attached Property Identification Map).

#### **Boundary Justification**

The boundary includes all of the land historically associated with the Clifton Country Club.

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Clifton Country Club Woodford County, Kentucky

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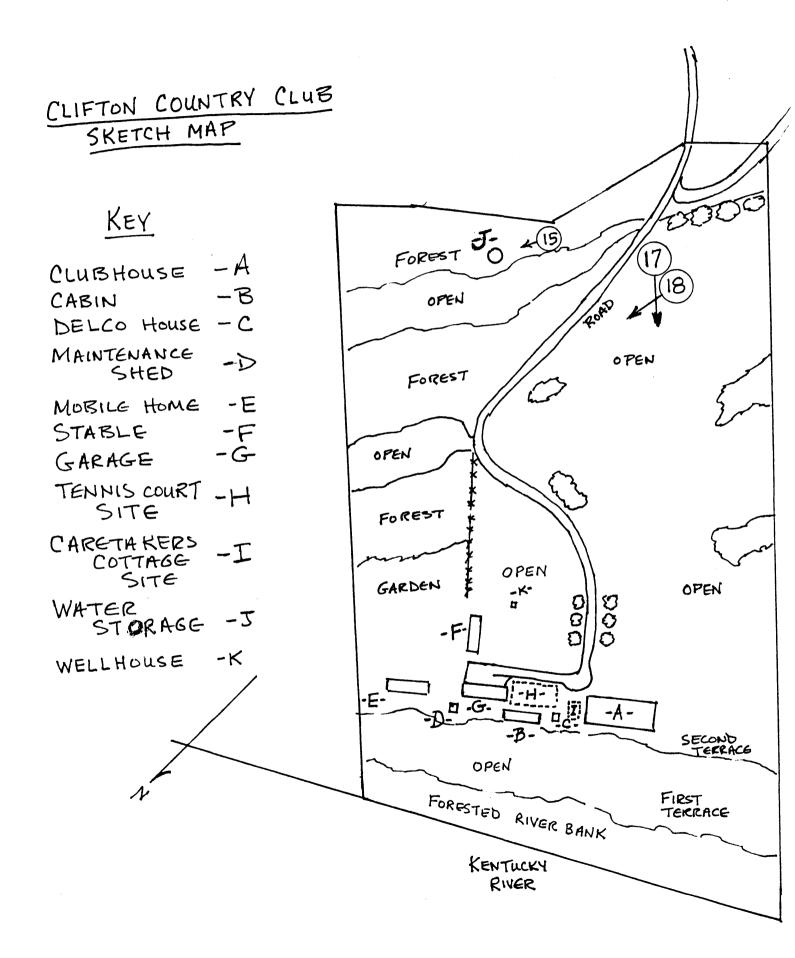
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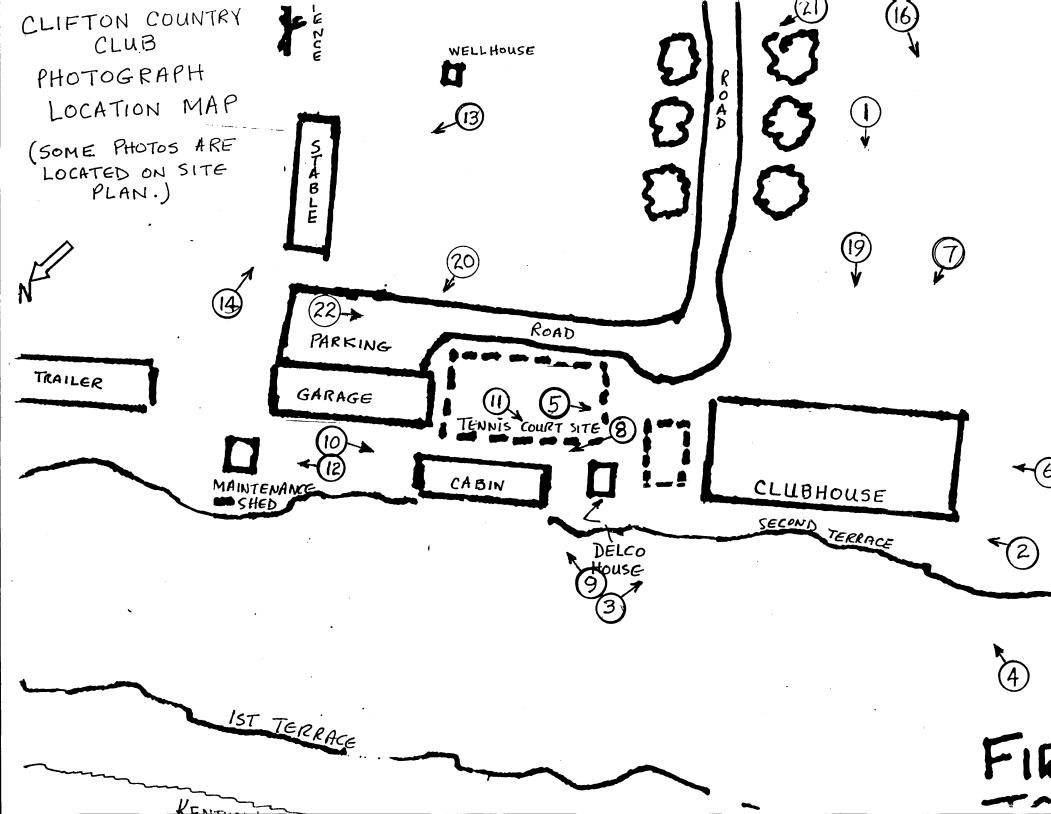
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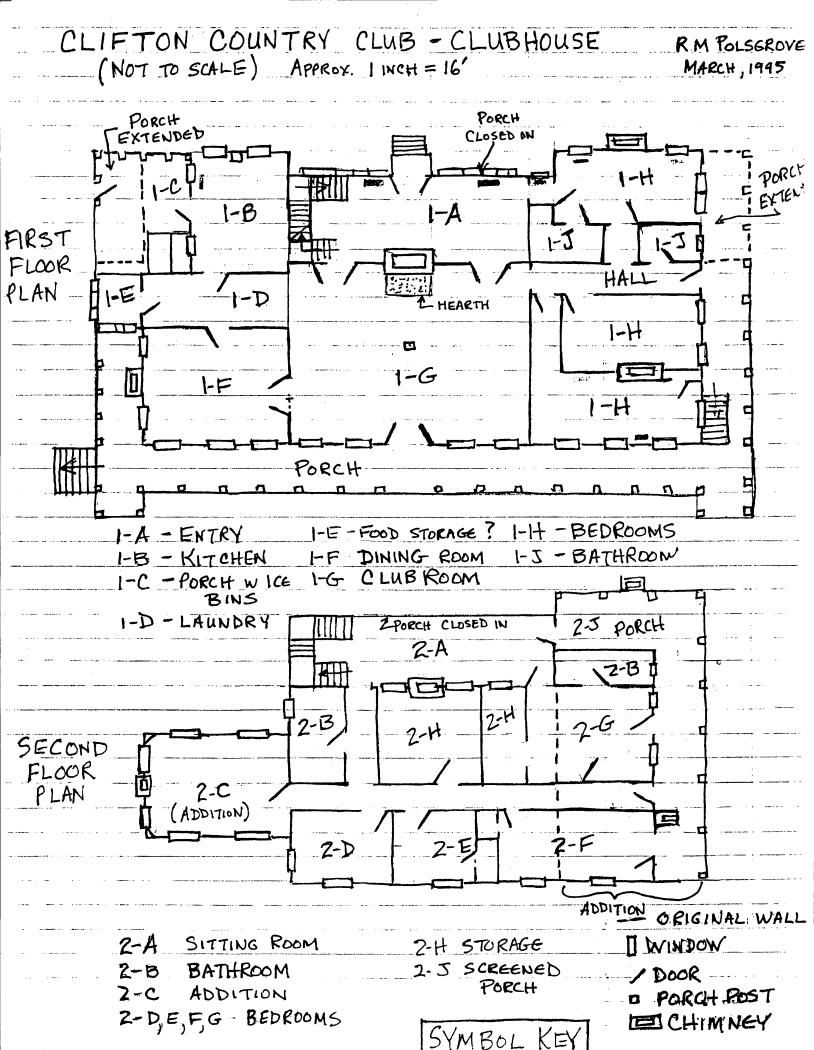
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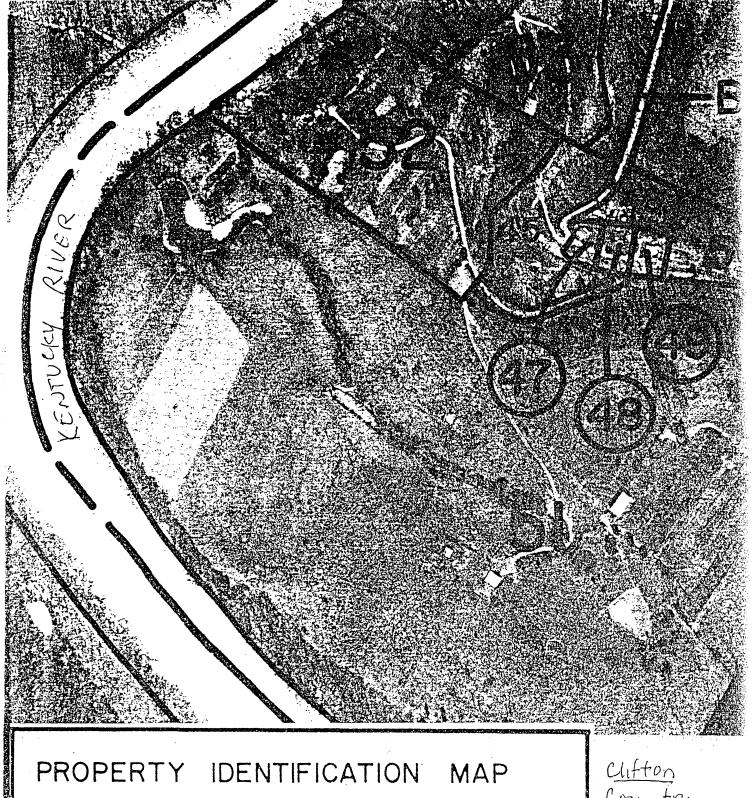
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Planning, Construction, and Equipment of the Club House; New York, 1929.

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COUNTY: WOODFORD

MAP: 3

Club Country Club woodford Co., ky Map susmitted

Scale 660'

to serve as Verbal From Original map submitted with rominaturi ( that map in 1' = 600' Scale)