

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED **MAY 31 1977**

DATE ENTERED **AUG 26 1977**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Abraham Barton House

AND/OR COMMON

Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

200 North Upper Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Lexington

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6

STATE

Kentucky

CODE
21

COUNTY
Fayette

CODE
067

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER:
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Barton House Company

STREET & NUMBER

200 North Upper Street

CITY, TOWN

Lexington

VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky 40507

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Fayette County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Lexington

STATE

Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky

DATE

1971

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Kentucky Heritage Commission

CITY, TOWN

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky 40601

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Situated on the southeast corner of North Upper and West Second Streets in Lexington, the Abraham Barton House is located three blocks northeast of the Fayette County Courthouse, two blocks southwest of the campus of Transylvania University and two blocks southeast of the Gratz Park Historic District (listed on the National Register March 14, 1973).

Constructed in multiple stages, the original portion was built in 1795 and faced Second Street (see right side of photo 1 and area designated as "A" on floor plan). This two-and-one-half story brick residence had a narrow transverse stair hall across the west end and a fireplace on the east wall whose first floor mantle survives (see photo 2).

Apparently, the section marked "B" was added soon afterwards as one large room--suggested by the recently uncovered brick-filled windows (see photos 3 and 4). An open staircase in this section with turned winders was inserted ca. 1832 (see photo 5). Sections "C" and "E" followed in 1812 with the rebuilding of the south wall. This work was carried out by Samuel Long, one of the leading house-joiners of Lexington in the early 1800s.

Section "D" was the next addition and was erected in the early 1830s when the house underwent a Greek Revival remodeling supervised by Gideon Shryock.¹ This architect, a native Lexingtonian who had studied for one year under William Strickland in Philadelphia, was considered the leading proponent of the Greek Revival in the West. At this time, he was primarily engaged with the construction of Morrison Hall for Transylvania University (declared a National Historic Landmark, December 15, 1966). His remodeling of the Abraham Barton House included reorienting the structure to face Upper Street, enlarging the windows, and the finishing of a new main stairway, floors and trim. The new facade facing Upper Street was given five bays on both floors with its focal point being the centered door. The door is recessed behind two piers and a lintel treated with heavy dentils. An entablature atop these is enriched with egg-and-dart molding and is supported by two acanthus-scrolled consoles (see photo 6).

The addition of gallery "F" seems to have coincided with the Greek Revival remodeling due to the arrangement of doors. Whether the section labeled as "G" on the floor plan was added at the same time is uncertain, but in any event this section has a door opening onto the gallery on both floors indicating perhaps that either "F" and "G" were added at the same time, or that an earlier gallery was replaced at the time "G" was added.

In some instances, mantles from the first half of the 19th century were later replaced with those of the Victorian mode (see photo 7), but a good deal of the early woodwork has been retained (see photo 8). Basement window frames and some upper window frames facing Second Street are survivors of the earlier periods also; and of special interest is the former kitchen in the basement beneath section "D" with its large fireplace for cooking purposes.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
___PREHISTORIC	___ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	___COMMUNITY PLANNING	___LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	___RELIGION
___1400-1499	___ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	___CONSERVATION	___LAW	___SCIENCE
___1500-1599	___AGRICULTURE	___ECONOMICS	___LITERATURE	___SCULPTURE
___1600-1699	___ARCHITECTURE	___EDUCATION	___MILITARY	___SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	___ART	___ENGINEERING	___MUSIC	___THEATER
___1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	___PHILOSOPHY	___TRANSPORTATION
___1900-	___COMMUNICATIONS	___INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	___OTHER (SPECIFY)
		___INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1795 Remodeled 1824 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Peyton Short; Gideon Shyrock (1824)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The original portion of the 2½ story brick house located near the heart of old Lexington is said to have been constructed in 1795 by Peyton Short, one of Lexington's early trustees, senator in 1792 to the First Kentucky Legislature, a leading town merchant, and, at the time, one of the largest land speculators in the state. The structure is perhaps most identified, however, with Abraham Stout Barton, another one of Lexington's more prominent merchants.

The history of the house goes back to the early days of Lexington's founding. The town began attracting settlers in the 1780s, after the danger of Indian attack had substantially subsided. Lexington's location at the intersection of roads running north-south and east-west had shown its advantage by the turn of the century as the town developed into a thriving trading and manufacturing center. "Lexington was at the zenith of her commercial prosperity in 1810," states one historian. "Since 1800, her growth had been so rapid that her population had certainly trebled itself. . . . It became the grand depot of supplies for emigrants, and the great manufacturing point of an immense region" (Peter, p. 265).

Peyton Short, who had moved to Kentucky from Surry County, Virginia in 1791 with one of his sisters, played a part in Lexington's growth from log fort to the "Athens of the West". He opened one of the first general merchandise stores in the city, and was in business with General James Wilkinson in the opening of the trade, particularly in tobacco, with New Orleans.¹ He was also a large land speculator, and acquired thousands of acres in Kentucky, Ohio, and Florida.

Short purchased from the town of Lexington, out-lot 8, an area now bordered by Upper, Third, Limestone and Second Streets, and it was within this area that Short laid off the first subdivision of twenty lots. Short's advertisement in the Kentucky Gazette, May 1792, describes the stream that then flowed at the rear of the house, and stressed the advantage of its location. The fact that the next purchaser bought this lot with a brick house on it suggests that Major Short had erected a "model dwelling" on the corner of his subdivision nearest the courthouse. Short also opened Upper Street (then Lumber Street) from Second to Third Streets, and the cross street from Upper to Limestone (then Mulberry) Streets known as Mechanics Street.

Short came from an impressive family background. He was the grandson of an English baronet, and the son-in-law of John Cleves Symmes, whose sister was married to William Henry Harrison. Short's brother William (1759-1849) was a close friend of Thomas Jefferson and served as the Secretary of the Legation in 1789 while Jefferson was Minister to France. He was appointed Minister to the Hague in 1792, and in 1793, as joint minister to Madrid (DAB, pp128-129).

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Dunn, C. Frank. "Old Houses of Lexington." Unpublished manuscript on file at Kentucky Historical Society, Frankfort, Kentucky, 1930-1950, pp. 42-44.

Library of Congress, Washington, D. C., Short Family file.

(continued)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .18 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,6	71,98,20	4,21,40,0,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
-------	------	--------	------

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
-------	------	--------	------

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

J. David Porter

GM:DK

ORGANIZATION

DATE

March 1977

STREET & NUMBER

259 West Short Street

TELEPHONE

(606) 254-4401

CITY OR TOWN

Lexington

STATE

Kentucky

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Edred W. Melton

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 5-24-77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

Charles H. ...

DATE

8/26/77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

8-22-77

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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Abraham Barton House

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

A remodeling in current process is providing the Barton House with new electrical wiring, plumbing, and heating and cooling facilities. However, the structure's integrity is being maintained as much as possible. All rooms are to keep their present dimensions and that woodwork which has deteriorated beyond reasonable use is being carefully reproduced. The intended usage is an office building for attorneys.

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Abraham Barton House
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

George Caldwell, who resided on one of his two large plantations in Fayette County and owned a mill at the mouth of Town Branch, bought the house on Second Street from Short in 1798. Deeds to neighboring property refer to this house as "George Caldwell's lot now occupied by James Maccoun." Apparently Caldwell leased the house to Maccoun, who became one of the largest merchants and heaviest speculators in Lexington.

Caldwell sold the house to one of Lexington's leading "house-joiners" of the day, Samuel Long, on December 26, 1810. Again, deeds to neighboring lots indicate that Long also leased the house since it is referred to in a 1812 deed as "a lot bought by said Long of the late George Caldwell, decd., and at present occupied by George Ross." George G. Ross was a son-in-law of the distinguished Dr. Richard Pindell, Revolutionary War veteran and brother-in-law of Henry Clay.

After enlargement by Long in 1812, the house was sold to Abraham Stout Barton. Barton was cashier of Lexington's first bank and an associate of Henry Clay and John Wesley Hunt. After Barton's death in 1824, his widow engaged Gideon Shryock to remodel the house in a then fashionable Greek Revival style. That the noted Shryock's remodeling included rebuilding and expansion of the house is borne out by the fact that the house was sold by the Barton heirs for \$5000, fully \$1000 more than Abraham Barton had paid for it in 1812. At Mrs. Barton's death, the property went to her two minor sons. Each son died under mysterious circumstances just prior to reaching the age of majority. The last son, John Barton, Jr., coroner of Lexington, died two months prior to receiving his inheritance. The newspaper hinted at murder, but the death was ruled suicide.

Other owners of note include Major R. B. McClelland, who served as Assistant Adjutant General under Stuart and Hampton and was on the staff of Gen. Robert E. Lee. While living in the Barton House, he served as headmaster of Sayre College for 34 years where he would not allow the history of the Civil War to be taught because he did not agree with any of the textbooks of the time. It was in the Barton House that he wrote: Life and Campaigns of Major General J. E. B. Stuart, Commander of the Cavalry of Northern Virginia, published in 1885. In 1958, the book was republished under the title: I Rode with JEB Stuart.

1 Peyton Short was not involved with General Wilkinson and Aaron Burr in their grandiose and treasonous schemes to separate Kentucky from the Union. Short later wrote Henry Clay that all of his misfortunes could be traced to his association with Wilkinson.

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Abraham Barton House

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

Lynch, Josephine Short. Short, An Early Virginia Family. Richmond, Virginia:
Whittet and Shepperson, 1970.

Peter, Robert. History of Fayette County, Kentucky. Edited by William H.
Perrin, Chicago: O. L. Baskin and Co., 1882, pp. 66, 226.

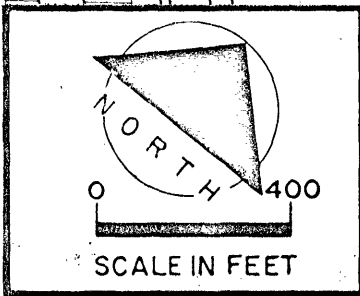
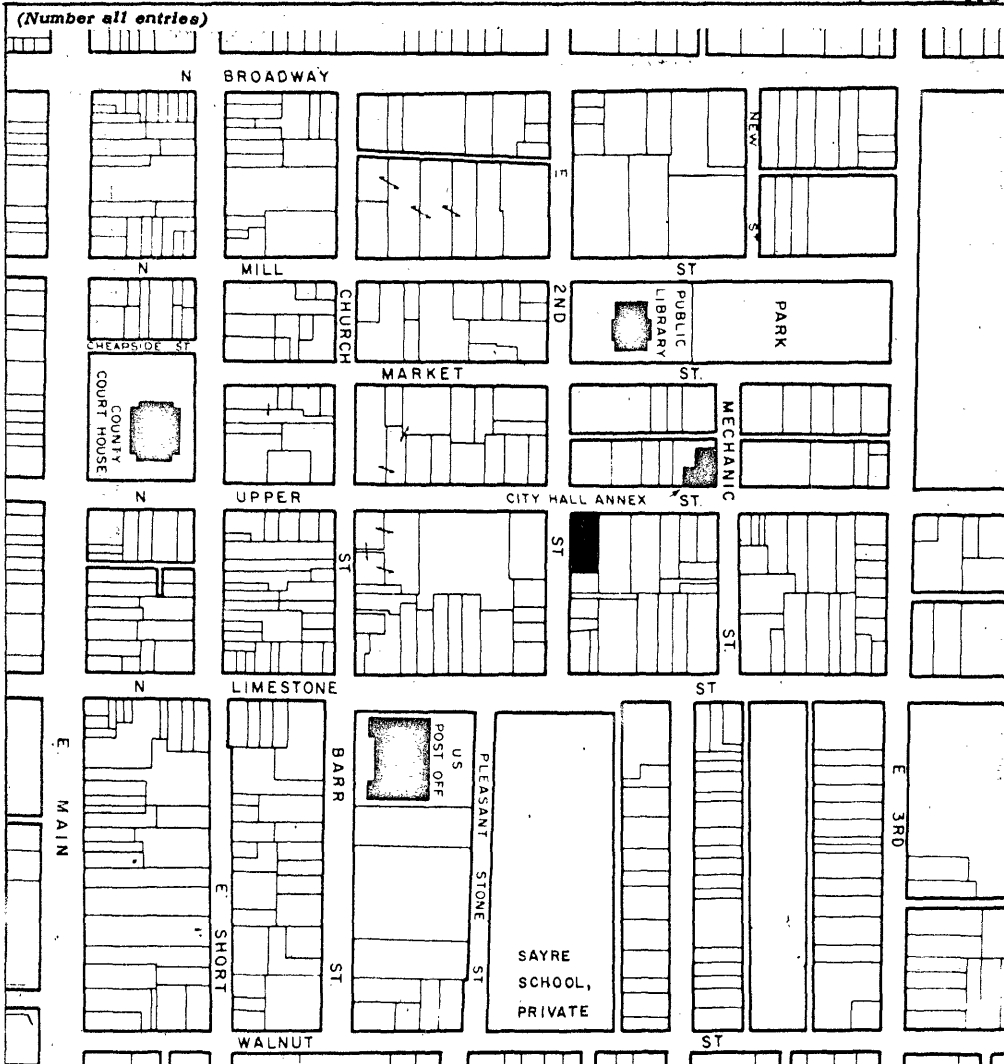
"William Short." Dictionary of American Biography. Vol. 17, pp. 128-129.

Additional information supplied by Mr. E. I. Thompson.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Kentucky	
COUNTY Fayette	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
AUG 26 1977	



Abraham Barton House
200 North Upper Street
Lexington, Kentucky

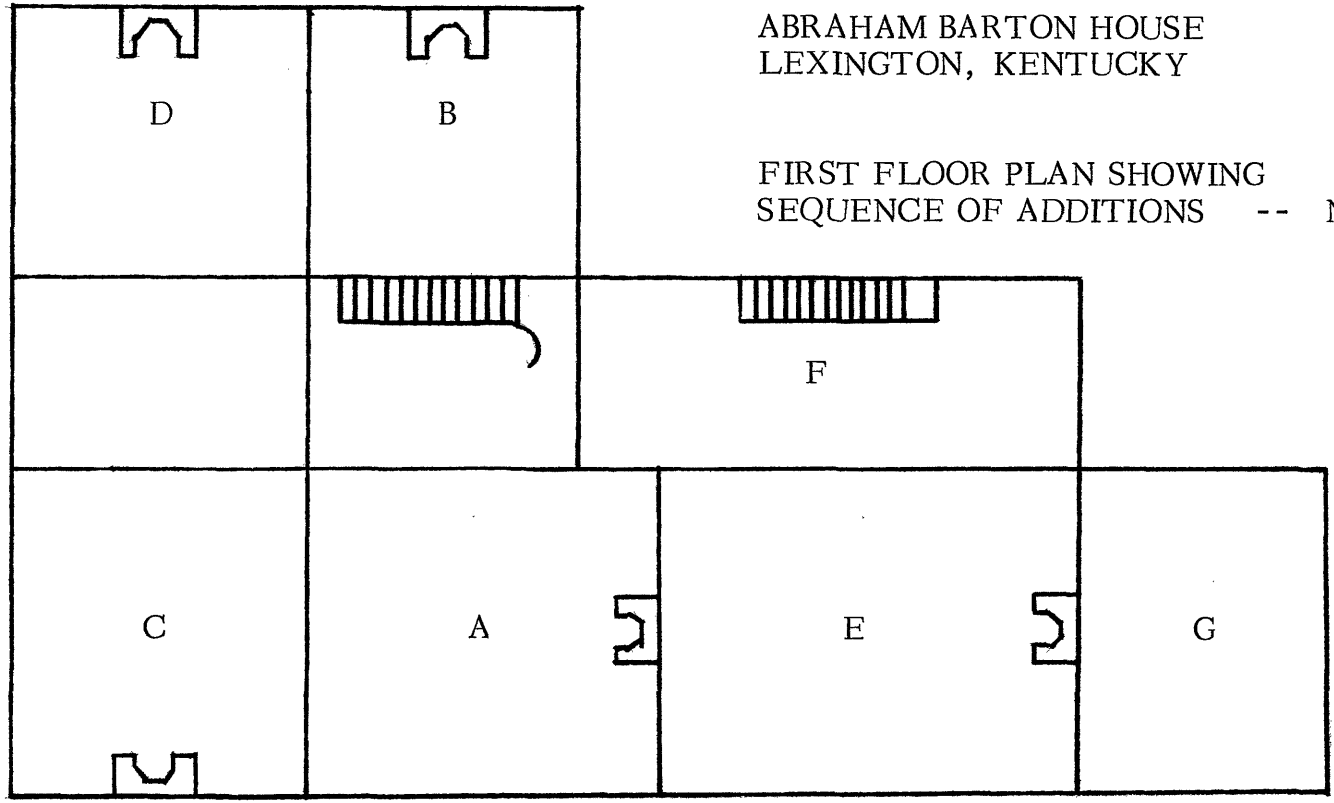
Abraham Barton House
Lexington
Fayette County
Kentucky

MAY 31 1977

City-County Planning Commission
March 1973 1" = 400'
Map 2. Barton House blocked in
red.

PROPERTY OF THE ARCHIVES
RESEARCH CENTER

UPPER STREET



ABRAHAM BARTON HOUSE
LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY

FIRST FLOOR PLAN SHOWING
SEQUENCE OF ADDITIONS -- NO SCALE

SECOND STREET

Abraham Barton House
Lexington
Fayette County
Kentucky

MAY 31 1977

No scale.

Map 5. First floor plan showing
sequence of additions.

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