

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED **OCT 5 1980**

DATE ENTERED

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

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Undulata (Weissinger Farm)

AND/OR COMMON

Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Old Zaring Mill Road

NA NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Shelbyville *Mo.*

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

6

STATE

Kentucky

CODE

021

COUNTY

Shelby

CODE

211

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
 - PRIVATE
 - BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
 - BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
 - UNOCCUPIED
 - WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
 - YES: UNRESTRICTED
 - NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER Summer Camp
- MILITARY

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Dr. & Mrs. James E. Meffert

STREET & NUMBER

Route 5, Box 420 - Old Zaring Mill Road

CITY, TOWN

Shelbyville

STATE

Kentucky

NA VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Shelby County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Shelbyville

STATE

Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky

DATE

1975

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Kentucky Heritage Commission

CITY, TOWN

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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

Located approximately 1 3/4 miles southwest of Shelbyville, Kentucky, the Undulata Farm complex comprises sixteen structures dating from the turn of the century. Shelbyville, the county's largest town and seat of government, has a population of 4,183 (1970 census). Shelby is a rural county on the northwest fringe of central Kentucky adjoining metropolitan Jefferson County to the west. Undulata Farm derives its name from the gently rolling Shelby County terrain. Just south of Shelbyville, Interstate 64 bisects the county from east to west, thus dividing the original 2800-acre farm. However, the present complex contains all of the known extant structures connected with the farm with the exception of the large livestock barn approximately 1 1/4 miles east of the house where Kentucky Highway 53 intersects I-64.

Designed by the Louisville architectural firm of McDonald and Sheblessy and constructed in 1903, the main house is a three-story brick Neo-Classical block with a two-story service wing on the rear. The attic level which is extended to a full story is accentuated by both a plain band and a molded stone belt course. Dentils and modillions denote the low hipped roof. A slightly projecting central pavillion and corner pilasters break the otherwise smooth facade which is divided into three principal bays. Windows are surmounted by stone lintels, and the central entrance exhibits a Palladian quality with leaded sidelights and fanlight. The most outstanding element is the colossal two-story, semi-circular Ionic portico capped with iron cresting in an anthemion pattern. One-story Ionic porches wrap around the north and south elevations. The only major addition is the ca. 1940 breakfast room on the south side of the ell.

The plan consists of a wide center hall terminating in a cherry staircase at the east wall. Double parlors divided by sliding doors flank the hall on the north. Tall diamond-paned, leaded glass casement windows with transoms light the northeast parlor (designated at the billiard room on the 1902 blueprints) and the southeast dining room. On the east side of the center hall a transverse hall leading to the porte-cochere divides the front (southwest) parlor from the dining room. The original woodwork, including classically detailed mantels, deep baseboards, door surrounds capped by cornice strips, and horizontal-panel doors, remains throughout the house. Two large glass chandeliers are also original. Doors to the north and south of the stairs lead to the service ell (see sketch plan).

Fifteen outbuildings remain and most of these are currently utilized in the operation of a summer camp program. The owners plan to renovate the few remaining vacant buildings in the near future. The majority of these buildings date from the 1903 period of the main house; however, three appear to be somewhat older, supporting the theory that a late nineteenth century complex existed on this site previous to the present one.

This nomination consists of approximately 43 acres encompassing the main house and outbuildings which comprise the farm complex.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1903 BUILDER/ARCHITECT McDonald & Sheblesy, main house

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Undulata Farm in Shelby County, Kentucky, represents one of the best surviving turn-of-the-century farm complexes in the state. Throughout the twentieth century, Undulata has been regionally noted as a model livestock and horse farm. The main house-- designed by the firm of one of Louisville's most important architects, Kenneth McDonald-- is one of the finest of the few examples of domestic turn-of-the-century architecture in Shelby County.¹ The unusually large collection of outbuildings, which reflects the Neo-Classical design influence of the house, remains intact and largely functional. In addition to developing Undulata Farm, Colonel Harry Weissinger was also a Confederate cavalry hero and an important commercial figure in Louisville until his death in 1915.

Colonel Weissinger, who received his title through serving as an officer in the state militia of Kentucky,² was born on the site of the old Central Park which was the oldest park in the city of Louisville, on November 25, 1843.³ His father George W. Weissinger was of German parentage, was born in Georgia, reared in Alabama, and educated at Transylvania University in Lexington, Kentucky. He established his home in Louisville in 1828 and practiced law there. He was also half-owner of the Louisville Journal from 1835 until his death in 1851. His wife, Amanthis Bullitt, was the grand-daughter of Major William Bullitt, a Revolutionary War hero of French Huguenot descent, after whom Bullitt County, Kentucky, was named.

Harry Weissinger was educated at Kenyon College, a fashionable Episcopalian institution in Gambier, Ohio. As one of only two Southerners in attendance there when the Civil War began in 1861, he deemed it expedient to return home. Weissinger enlisted in Basil W. Duke's regiment under John Hunt Morgan's command in June, 1862. In 1863 he was captured and interned at Camp Douglas at Chicago, Illinois. In 1864 he attempted to escape but was wounded and recaptured. On February 28, 1865, he was released on parole and was sent to Richmond, Virginia. In April, 1865, after his exchange had been arranged, he rejoined General Duke's command and acted as escort to Confederate President Jefferson Davis on his flight to Washington, Georgia, from Richmond after General Robert E. Lee's surrender to General Ulysses S. Grant at Appamatox. Weissinger surrendered to Union forces in May, 1865, and then returned to Kentucky.

In the fall of 1865, Colonel Weissinger engaged in the general merchandise business at Columbus, Mississippi. After his store and stock were destroyed by fire, he returned to Louisville and became involved in business there as a tobacco broker. Twenty years later, in 1887, he bought out his partner in the firm of Weissinger and Bate and operated the new firm as the Harry Weissinger Tobacco Company. His well equipped factory was destroyed by fire in 1893 but a new plant was built and was still operating successfully in 1912. Colonel Weissinger was also one of the organizers of the Columbia Trust Company, serving as vice-president in 1912, and erected the Weissinger-Gaulbert apartments (entered on the National Register of December 12, 1977).⁴ He was also

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Please see attached sheet.

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

UTM NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately 43 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Shelbyville

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	6	6	5	4	7	7	0	4	2	2	8	2	0	0
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1	6	6	5	4	7	7	0	4	2	2	7	9	0	0
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C

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D

1	6	6	5	4	7	7	0	4	2	2	8	2	0	0
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E

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F

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G

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H

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

see continuation sheet

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

Calvin P. Jones, Senior Historian; Charlotte Schneider, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Kentucky Heritage Commission

DATE

August 1980

STREET & NUMBER

104 Bridge Street

TELEPHONE

(502) 564-3741

CITY OR TOWN

Frankfort

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 HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Donna Hopkins 5/14/82
Acting State Historic Preservation Officer 9-23-80

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

William H. Sullivan

DATE 6-22-82

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

Undulata Farm
Shelby County, Kentucky

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

OUTBUILDINGS (keyed to site location map)

- (A) Subterranean smokehouse with a stepped parapet facade.
- (B) Round brick ice house with conical roof.
- (C) Frame pyramidal-roofed cottage.
- (D) Concrete block office.
- (E) Two 1½-story clapboard horse barns with hipped roofs, pedimented gables, and dentilled cornices; connected by a later one-story frame section.
- (F) Two-story clapboard carriage house/garage with dentilled cornice.
- (G) One-room clapboard building with pyramidal roof topped by farm bell, dentilled cornice and wooden lintels; served as original farm office.
- (H) Two-story frame servants cottage ca. 1890.
- (I) 1940s greenhouse.
- (J) 1940s shop (originally used to sell plants from greenhouse and now a craft shop for summer camp).
- (K) Concrete block dairy (now kennels).
- (L) 1½-story frame barn.
- (M) Two-story frame T-plan which served as farm workers' residence (currently vacant).
- (N) One-story frame workers' cottage (currently vacant).

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Undulata Farm Complex
Shelby County, Kentucky
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

the principal factor in the erection of the Stewart Dry Goods Company building which was for many years the finest building for dry goods purposes in the South. Colonel Weissinger was also president of the Weissinger-Gaulbert Real Estate Company and the Louisville Realty Company for many years.

About 1890, Harry Weissinger put together a farm of 1,500-2,800 acres in Shelby County, Kentucky.⁵ The existing house was evidently built in 1903.⁶ A previous house may have been burned. He specialized there in the breeding of high grades of livestock and in effective cultivation of the land.

Colonel Weissinger was president of the Board of Trade in Louisville from 1886 to 1889 and president of the Board of Aldermen from 1901 to 1903. He was a member of the B.P.O.E. and the United Confederates Veteran's Association.⁹

After Colonel Weissinger's death in 1915 his wife continued to live at Undulata until 1920.¹⁰ The farm was then resold several times until its purchase in 1977 by Dr. and Mrs. James E. Meffert.¹¹ By that time the acreage had declined to ninety-four acres, partially as a result of interstate highway construction. The Mefferts currently operate a summer program for girls age 8-12 which includes daily equitation instruction. They have sympathetically maintained the house and have rehabilitated the majority of the outbuildings for use in the summer camp program, thus preserving the unique farm complex.

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Undulata Farm Complex
Shelby County, Kentucky

CONTINUATION SHEET

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FOOTNOTES

1

Shelby County was comprehensively surveyed by the Kentucky Heritage Commission in the fall of 1979.

2

E. Polk Johnson, "Harry Weissinger," A History of Kentucky and Kentuckians (Chicago-New York: The Lewis Publishing Co., 1912), Vol. II, p. 1008.

3

Ibid., p. 1007.

4

The first of the three Weissinger-Gaulbert Apartments was like Undulata designed by McDonald & Sheblessy; the subsequent buildings were designed by McDonald & Dodd.

5

Yvonne Eaton, "Undulata's roles unroll as it rolls on," The Courier-Journal (Louisville, Kentucky), July 7, 1980, p. C-1. Also see Johnson, p. 1009.

6

Eaton.

7

Johnson, p. 1009.

8

Ibid.

9

Weissinger was interested in mending the ill-feelings caused by the war and was partially responsible for the holding of a G.A.R. encampment in Louisville for veterans from Maine in 1895. Five years later he was the chief speaker for another such meeting at Belfast, Maine, on Decoration Day, May 30, 1900.

10

Dr. and Mrs. James E. Meffert, "Undulata Farm," Promotional Materials, ca. 1980.

11

After 1920 the farm was sold to a Lexington family who owned it for about ten years. A family named Davis owned it around 1940. They sold it to Mr. Ely Meyers about that time. The farm then included 795 acres which were left to his daughter, Miss Jane Meyers, who was extensively involved in raising and showing American Saddlebreds. She sold the farm in early 1977 to its present owners, Dr. and Mrs. James E. Meffert.

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Undulata Farm Complex
Shelby County, Kentucky

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

- Eaton, Yvonne. "Undulata's roles unroll as it rolls on." The Courier-Journal
(Louisville, Kentucky), July 7, 1980, p. C-1.
- Hedgepeth, Marty P. "An Architectural Legacy from the Victorian to the Beaux-Arts,
1873-1913: An examination of the Louisville architectural firms of the McDonald
Brothers, McDonald and Sheblessy, Dodd and Cobb, and McDonald and Dodd." Thesis
in preparation, University of Louisville, 1979.
- Johnson, E. Polk. "Harry Weissinger." A History of Kentucky and Kentuckians. Chicago-
New York: The Lewis Publishing Co., 1912. Vol. II, pp. 1007-1010.
- Kentucky Heritage Commission. "Weissinger-Gaulbert Apartments." Jefferson County,
Kentucky. National Register of Historic Places Form. Frankfort, Kentucky, 1977.
- Meffert, Dr. and Mrs. James E. "Undulata Farm," Promotional Materials, ca. 1980.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Undulata, Shelby County, KY.
Continuation sheet

Item number 10

Page 2

Verbal Boundary Description

A rectangular area, beginning on the east side of Old Zaring Mill Road at a point 500' north of the main entrance (D on USGS map), east 2000' to a dirt farm road (A on USGS map), south 1000' to point B on USGS map, west 2000' to east side of Old Zaring Mill Road (C on USGS map), north along the east side of Old Zaring Mill Road to the point of origin.

Boundary Justification

The forty-three acre parcel that comprises the Undulata farm complex is the nucleus of what was formerly a regionally noted livestock and horse farm dating from the turn-of-the-century. The nominated area consists of level to gently rolling open farmland. Because it is no longer operated as a farm and the original 2,800 acres no longer exist in their original condition and under single ownership, only that portion which currently reflects the significance of the original farm is being nominated. Ninety-four acres containing sixteen of the seventeen known structures associated with Undulata are under single ownership, and most of those buildings are utilized in the operation of a summer camp. No new buildings have been erected since the 1940s, and its present use as a summer camp has in no way detracted from the physical or historical integrity of the farm. Most of the outbuildings serve similar, if not identical, functions as they did when Undulata was a livestock and horse farm. The few buildings that remain vacant are scheduled for incorporation into the camp program. The significance of this site lies in the fact that the physical complex remains intact from its former days as a major farm in the Shelbyville-Louisville region. The owner's care and maintenance have been the key elements in the preservation of the complex. The nomination of forty-three acres is designed to encompass the entire complex because without these individual components, the importance of the site would be drastically altered.

The main farm residence is a massive three-story brick structure with a stately setting appropriate for its size. It is placed 800' off Old Zaring Mill Road with the front and side lawns attractively landscaped and marked by many large trees (see photos 1-6). A fenceline runs about 200' north of the house, separating the front lawn from an orchard (see sketch map 2). The orchard is also enclosed by fencing which extends about 500' from the main house. Beyond this second fenceline is open pasture. The side lawn south of the main house is also fenced (see photo 3), running about 400' to the south of the house and extending east about 2000'. Therefore, the complex, including domestic space, is clearly defined by fencing which isolate it from surrounding land in open pasture.

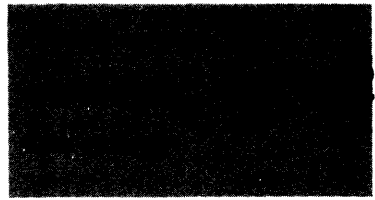
To conclude, because of the large scale of the house, its historical and physical relationship to Zaring Mill Road and the front and side landscaping, the boundary

ONE 10-900-a
ONE 10-900-a

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Undulata, Shelby County, Kentucky



Continuation sheet

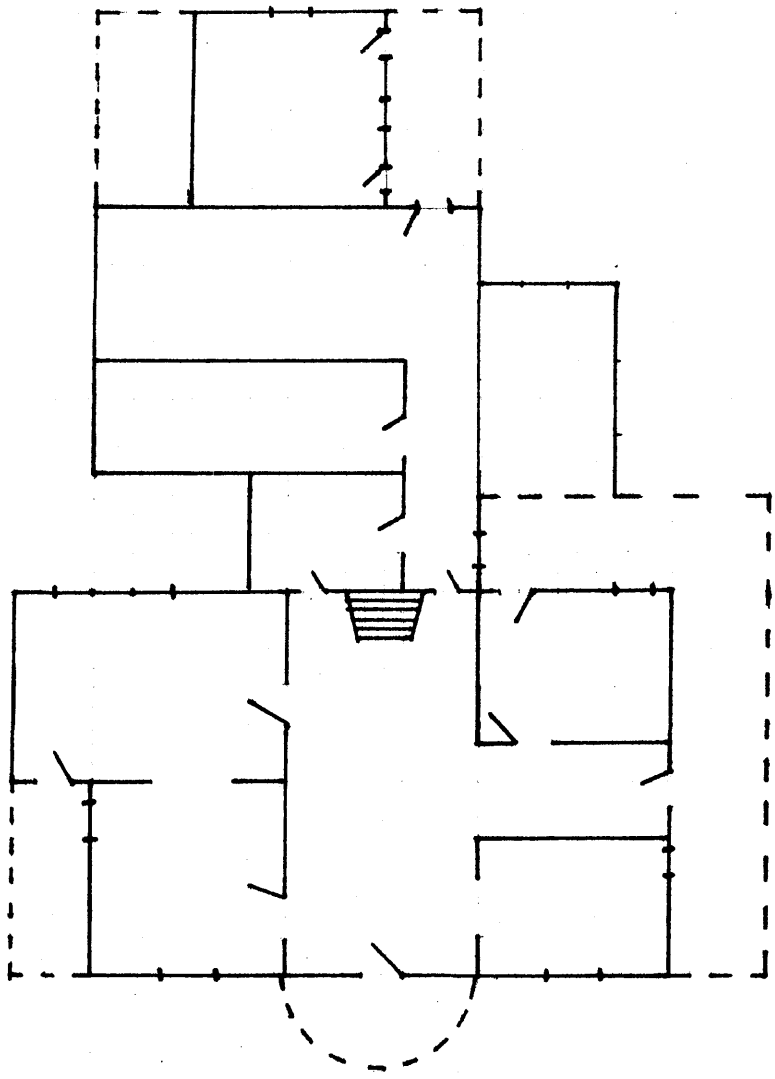
Item number 10

Page 3

(Boundary Justification-continued)

extends 800' west to the east side of Zaring Mill Road. The southern boundary is marked by the fence line which runs about 400' to the south, separating the front lawn from open pasture. The northern boundary follows fencing placed 500' north of the main house and runs along a natural ridge line. This area is composed of the front lawn, pond and orchard. The far eastern boundary extends to an outbuilding (marked M on Map 2) located at the greatest distance east of the main house. This extent is also fenced which, together with the other fencing, separates the complex from open fields.

**UNDULATA
SHELBY CO., KY.
SKETCH PLAN
NOT TO SCALE.
MAP 1.**

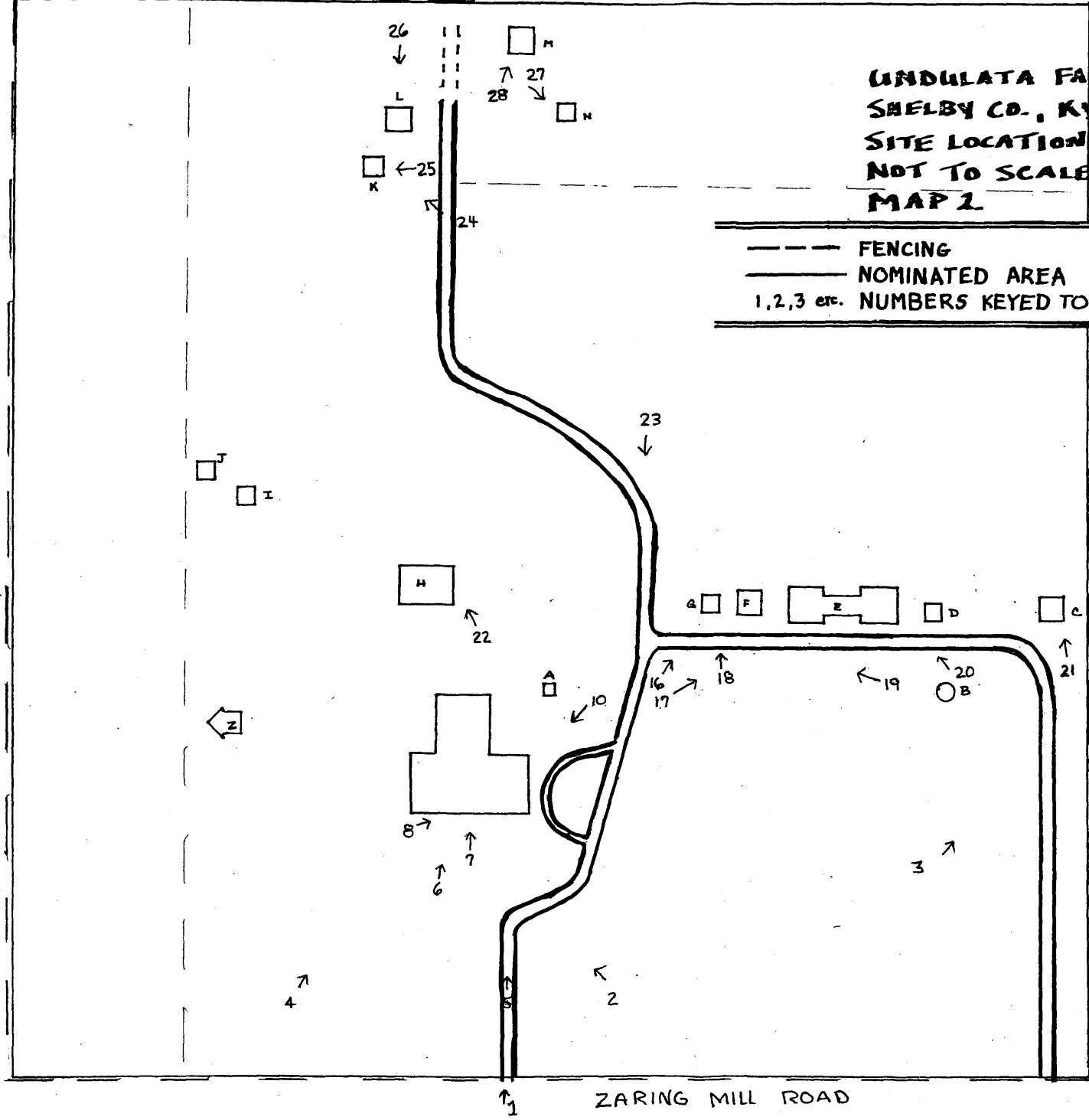


OCT 6 1980

**UNDULATA FARM
SHELBY CO., KY.
SITE LOCATION MAP
NOT TO SCALE.
MAP 2**

--- FENCING
—— NOMINATED AREA
1, 2, 3 etc. NUMBERS KEYED TO PHOTOS

100



CLS/1980