

PH0364843

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED **MAY 23 1977**
DATE ENTERED **DEC 12 1977**

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
Spring Station
AND/OR COMMON
Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
3241 Trinity Road
CITY, TOWN
Louisville
STATE
Kentucky
VICINITY OF
— NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
3 and 4
COUNTY
Jefferson
CODE
021
CODE
111

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
John Walser
STREET & NUMBER
4898 Brownsboro Shopping Center
CITY, TOWN
Louisville
STATE
Kentucky
VICINITY OF
Kentucky (continued)

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Jefferson County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
6th & Jefferson
CITY, TOWN
Louisville
STATE
Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky
DATE
1972
DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS
Kentucky Heritage Commission
CITY, TOWN
Frankfort
STATE
Kentucky
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

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

Spring Station is located in the eastern portion of the City of Louisville on a branch of Beargrass Creek. The original Spring Station tract consisted of hundreds of acres. The current land included in the nomination is 5.787 acres. This tract includes the main house, garage and cottage. The springhouses are on another lot across Trinity Road. The entire lot is not included: a five foot area around the two structures is being nominated.

The present white brick house facing nearly east has undergone numerous changes during the years, yet it retains its original character. There are similarities between the architecture of the house and three others which were designed by Thomas Jefferson. These similarities rest in the floor plans and the elevations. The structure is similar to Brandon (1765-70) in Prince George County, Virginia, also attributed to an early design by Jefferson.

The basic plan of Spring Station is a long structure one room deep composed of a central block with pavilions. The original house probably consisted of the two-story main block with the connecting wings and terminal blocks being added later. The gabled roofs of the wings and the pediment inserted into the roof over the end blocks are known to have been used by Jefferson. There are motifs used at Spring Station which reflect those of Monticello. One is the triple-hung windows in the lower story of the central block (photos 1, 2, 3).

The semicircular fan motif is found in Robert Morris' adaption of Palladio in his pattern books, which were one of Jefferson's sources. This fan light, found over the double front doors, is echoed in the lunettes of the pediments, in the two leading into the sun porch, in the living room door and in the carving on the long stone slab at the foot of the front steps. It is known that Samuel Beale was acquainted with Thomas Jefferson as established through some correspondence of Jefferson's. No evidence has been brought to light at this time, however, which would establish him as author of the plans for the house (photos 3, 9, 10, 14, 16).

The brick house has a raised basement above which is a stone water table of very fine sandstone. The basement windows have segmental arches with single headers. The front pavilions are of Flemish bond and incorporate the use of queen closers. The windows have molded stone sills and pegged Federal frames. The stone lintels are all of a shallow piece (photo 3). The doorway is framed by columns with convex fluting (photo 14). The doorway is quite similar to the doorway on the now demolished Churchill Home, in Louisville, which dated from the early nineteenth century.

The exterior and interior of the structure underwent a reworking in 1920 when the residence was purchased by George M. Clark. The architect for the project was the firm of Meyer & Brenner, a Louisville architectural firm. The architectural drawings of Meyer & Brenner for the reworking exist and are in the possession of the current owner. The exterior changes consisted mostly of reworking the portico and entrance stairway. The original (?) portico had attenuated Ionic columns (view 1). The stairway and porch had a more open ambience and was much lighter in appearance. The redesigned columns are squat Doric columns with an entablature surmounted by a balustrade (photo 3).

(continued)

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	X___ARCHITECTURE	___EDUCATION	___MILITARY	___SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
___1700-1799	___ART	___ENGINEERING	___MUSIC	___THEATER
X___1800-1899	___COMMERCE	X___EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	___PHILOSOPHY	___TRANSPORTATION
___1900-	___COMMUNICATIONS	___INDUSTRY	___POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	___OTHER (SPECIFY)
		___INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	1920 additions-
c. 1802	Unknown	Meyer & Brenner

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Spring Station is an excellent example of a modified Federal style residence with antecedents in Virginia. Although now surrounded by twentieth-century development, Spring Station maintains its dignity in a five-acre setting. The elegance of Spring Station is indicative of the early settlers from Virginia in the Louisville area and is similar to Ridgeway (National Register, April 1973) and Oxmoor (National Register, July 1976) which also have their roots in Virginia.

Spring Station, the most prominent dwelling in a residential neighborhood which took form in the thirty-year period between 1930 and 1960, is located at Lexington Road and Cannons Lane. The house takes its name from the log fort built on the site sometime between 1780 and 1784 by Colonel John Floyd, said to have been the last white man killed by Indians in Jefferson County. He was mortally wounded at the entrance gate to the outside palisades of Spring Station, so named because of the passage leading from the fort to the near-by spring. Walled with the same sized timbers used in the outer construction of the main fort, it enabled settlers to reach the spring without exposure to Indians. A ground plan of Spring Station, showing clearly the arrangement of the cabins and the stockade, was found in the papers of George Rogers Clark. The plan shows a short log-walled passage leading from one gate of the palisades to a spring.

There are presently two stone springhouses at the approximate site of the old fort about 100 yards southwest of the house and to the north of Beals Branch Road. According to the son of a former resident, Clifford Clark, the smaller springhouse 60 feet west of the original was built as a copy of its much older companion, through which water flows west into a large walled pool, now the head of Beal's Branch, a tributary of the middle fork of Beargrass Creek.

One story about the fort concerns an Indian attack made at the time Richard Steele was commander. Immediately after it was discovered the Indians were threatening the fort, the women and children were sent to Floyd's Station, about five miles away. During the unsuccessful Indian attack, Steele was seriously wounded and a scout dispatched for help at Floyd's Station. Martha McCamie Steele, upon hearing of her husband's plight, wrapped her baby in a blanket, mounted her horse, and, infant in arms, started for Spring Station despite the men imploring her not to attempt the dangerous ride through the dark on a trail infested with Indians. She ran her horse up the road now known as Story Avenue, into bottom-lands to a ford where she crossed the creek and continued her rush amid the firing of Indians. When she reached within calling distance of the station, she began screaming, "Richard, oh Richard." Recognizing her voice, Steele ordered the gate opened just in time to permit the horse to run through without stopping. Neither she nor the baby were injured and Steele recovered.

(continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bullitt, Neville S. "Old Homes and Landmarks of Louisville and Jefferson County." Notes compiled in preparation for a book in two volumes. Vol. 2, Sections G-P. December, 1936.

Collins, L. History of Kentucky. Vol. II, Louisville, Kentucky: John P. Merton and Company, 1924.

(continued)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 5.7 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	6	6	1	6	4	6	0	4	2	3	3	8	4	0
ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING								

B

ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING								

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Main Structure - Block 74-H, Lot 6, City of Louisville.

Springhouse - Block 74-H, The portion of Lot 7 which includes the two springhouses and a five foot perimeter around each, City of Louisville.

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 Elizabeth F. Jones, Reasearch Director
Frances Taylor, Volunteer, Eva Ray, Volunteer

ORGANIZATION Landmarks Commission

DATE April 21, 1977

STREET & NUMBER 617 W. Jefferson

TELEPHONE 587-3501

CITY OR TOWN Louisville

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

Eldred W. Merton

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE May 18, 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ATTEST: *Clark A. Spang*
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE 12/12/77
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
DATE 12-9-77

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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Spring Station

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 4

PAGE 2

Yancy C. and John O. Moore, Owners of Springhouse
544 Dover Road
Louisville, Kentucky 40205

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CONTINUATION SHEET Spring Station ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

Additions to the house included a service porch on the left side and a sun porch on the rear (views 3 & 4) (photo 5). According to the plans, a slate roof was to have been added, but the tin roof remained. In the north attic, there is a high arch between the chimneys. A porte cochere and entrance hall were added to the left side (photo 13).

The interior was also redone with the addition of French doors to the added sun porch off the living room (photo 9). It is not certain if the woodwork in the living room is original but it is very much in keeping with the period (photo 10). The woodwork in the dining room under the windows has delicate panels with chevron gouge lines above the panels. The window has plain, raked jambs. There are indications that a chair rail existed. There is also a continuous chevron molding in the bedroom to the left and paneled window jambs. Other woodwork in the structure is finely detailed. The stairhall was reworked with the removal of a portion of a brick wall and the addition of balustrades and other woodwork (photo 11). The mantel in the dining room was replaced during the renovation (photo 12). Numerous other minor changes were made (views 3 & 4).

Additional structures on the property included a garage with an apartment (photo 4) and a gardener's cottage (photo 6). The springhouse to the east was, allegedly, also built at this time (photo 7).

A photograph taken several years after the remodeling, shows the property in pristine condition (photo 15).

The residence is now in the process of being restored as it had deteriorated somewhat over the last two decades.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Spring Station ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

Sometime between 1784, when the fort is shown on the Filson map of Jefferson County, and 1802 when Norborne Beale arrived in the area with his wife, the fort gave way to the dwelling known as Spring Station (map 3).

Oral tradition has it that Thomas Jefferson gave his plans for the house to Samuel Beale who built it in 1795. The source of this tradition seems to rest with a letter written in 1922 by Herman D. Newcombe, who owned the house from 1906 to 1920. In that letter, he stated that John Beale of Albemarle County was a close friend of Jefferson's who patented that particular tract. However, there is no evidence of a John Beale from Albemarle County ever having come to Kentucky, indicating an inaccurate account by Mr. Newcombe whose source remains unknown. Further corroborating this error is an abstract from a Jefferson Co. Ky. Deed Book which on April 9, 1795, refers to "the late Samuel Beall." The authenticity of the information in the Newcombe letter has been widely accepted and reprinted in various books and articles since that time, giving impetus to the present oral tradition.

There are very little grounds for assuming that Jefferson might have drawn the plan for the Beale family. Samuel Beale is mentioned several times in Jefferson's letters. Apparently, Beale, in his capacity as a merchant, furnished the government and Army with certain supplies. Jefferson speaks of "Mr. Beale," indicating that both he and the recipient of the letters know Samuel Beale well enough so that using only "Mr. Beale" was clear. This association is too weak to establish positive or even probable authorship of the plan with Jefferson.

The Kentucky Land Grants does record that Samuel Beale was granted 2,980 acres in Jefferson County along the Beargrass and Fern Creek Watercourses on November 7, 1787. Whether Samuel or his son, Norborne, built Spring Station is not certain. It is certain that the Beale family, spelled variously as Beale, Beall, or Bealle, played a part in the origins of Spring Station.

Norborne (also spelled Norborn or Norbonne) B. Beale came in 1802 from Williamsburg, Virginia, along with Dr. William Galt and some of his wife's family, the Maupins. According to The History of the Ohio Falls Cities and Their Counties, a source written in 1802, Norborne settled on that part of his father's 3,000 acres in 1802 known as Spring Station, where he built the mansion, occupied by his family, a wife and three children.

Norbonne B. Beall

This gentleman came in 1802 from Williamsburg, Va., in company with Dr. William Galt of the same place. Mr. Beall's father already owned a very valuable tract of 3,000 acres on the Shelbyville Road, 3 miles from Louisville; and the son settled on that part of it known as Spring Station, where he built the fine, old-fashioned mansion so

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CONTINUATION SHEET Spring Station ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

long occupied by the family. He became a very prominent citizen, and was sent several times to the lower house of Congress. Dr. Galt married one of his sisters. Mr. Beall's daughter married Capt. William Booth, then of the United States Army, but for many years a farmer at Horse-shoe Bend.

Norborn B. Beale, one of the wealthy citizens of the pioneer days, was a large land-holder, owning probably a thousand acres of land. He lived in a grand style; owned a fine large residence. He was the father of three children.

He was elected to the Jefferson County House of Representatives in 1810, '11 and '13. In February of 1820, he deeded 985 acres, including Spring Station, to the United States Bank for two loans of \$13,000 and \$11,000. In January of 1830, the bank sold the property to John Peay. By 1845, the Beale family had moved to Meade County.

Henry Clay was reputedly a frequent visitor to Spring Station, and during the Civil War, it was used as headquarters by Federal forces. According to the son of a former owner, Mr. James T. Clark, the slopes stretching west from the back of the house were intended as a fortification for Louisville's protection.

During the years the physical appearance of the grounds and house have been altered in many ways. An Indian burial mound once stood in front of the house. An excavation from which clay was taken to make brick used in the house is located about 200 feet in front of it. The brick was burned on the place, and the walls of the house are 18 inches thick. The house was built by slaves whose quarters remained on the property until sometime during the 1920's when they were removed because of their dilapidated condition. The property now houses a row of garages and a cottage which is presently rented.

There are stone gate posts with pointed tops marking the gateway from the back yard to what was once the pasture through which flowed Beal's Branch. They had been moved there by George M. Clark from their place beside the old Workhouse Road at the main entrance to the place. Carved in one of them are the initials "G. E. C." probably referring to George E. Cook who owned the property from 1851 to 1856. In the other is cut the date 1856 (photos 17 & 18).

The history of Spring Station as a fort superseded by the dwelling is inextricably bound up in the history of the evolution of Louisville. Its historic significance is verified by the prominence of its architectural style and its original ownership. It remains an eloquent statement regarding the durability of a classically beautiful building through years, spanning wars and urban progress, to a tranquil maturity amid an uncluttered landscape of trees and expansive lawn. It bespeaks a permanency which welds together the pioneering past and the present day serenity of its residential setting.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Spring Station ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

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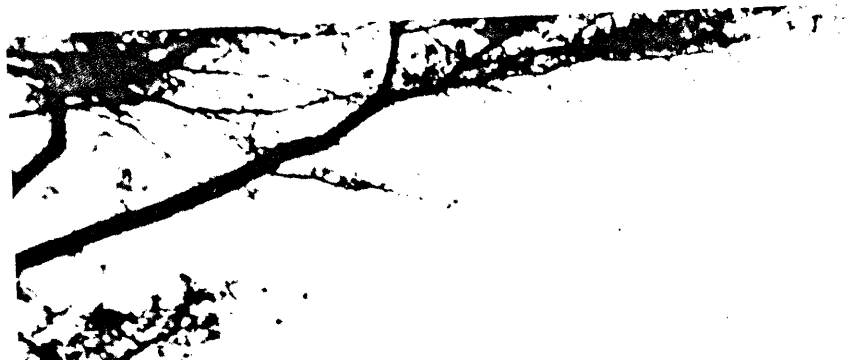
Thompson, Mrs. Reginald. "Old Homes of the Beargrass." The Filson Club Quarterly, June 2, 1959.



35.

Spring Station on Trinity Road is an early example of Federal style. It was started by Samuel Beal in 1795 on the site of a pioneer log fort.

47.



View 1

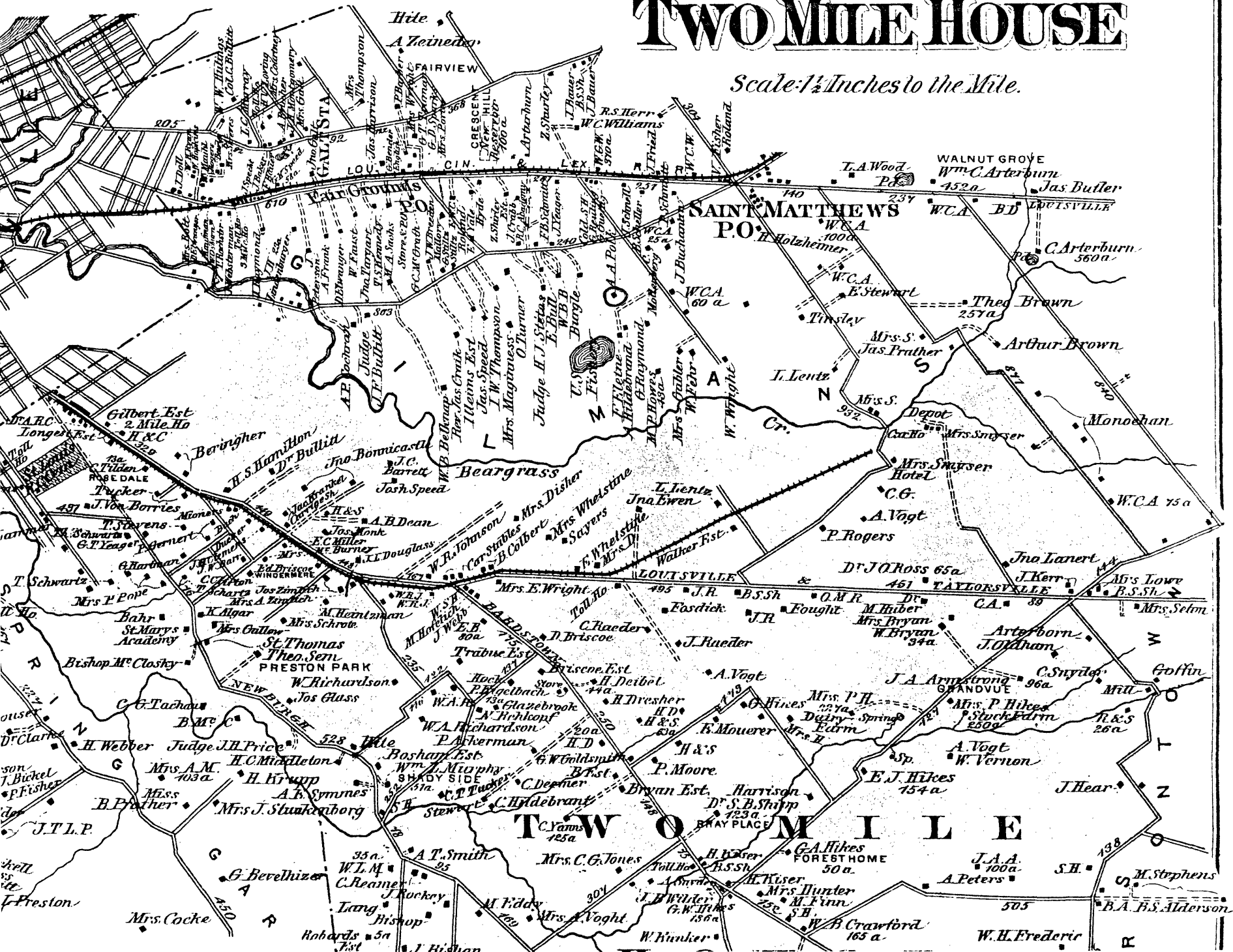
PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Spring Station
Louisville Jefferson County
Kentucky
S. W. Thomas, ed.
Views of Louisville (1971)
View I. - Photograph prior to
restoration-C. 1920.

DEC 12 1977 MAY 23 1977

TWO MILE HOUSE

Scale: 1 1/2 Inches to the Mile.

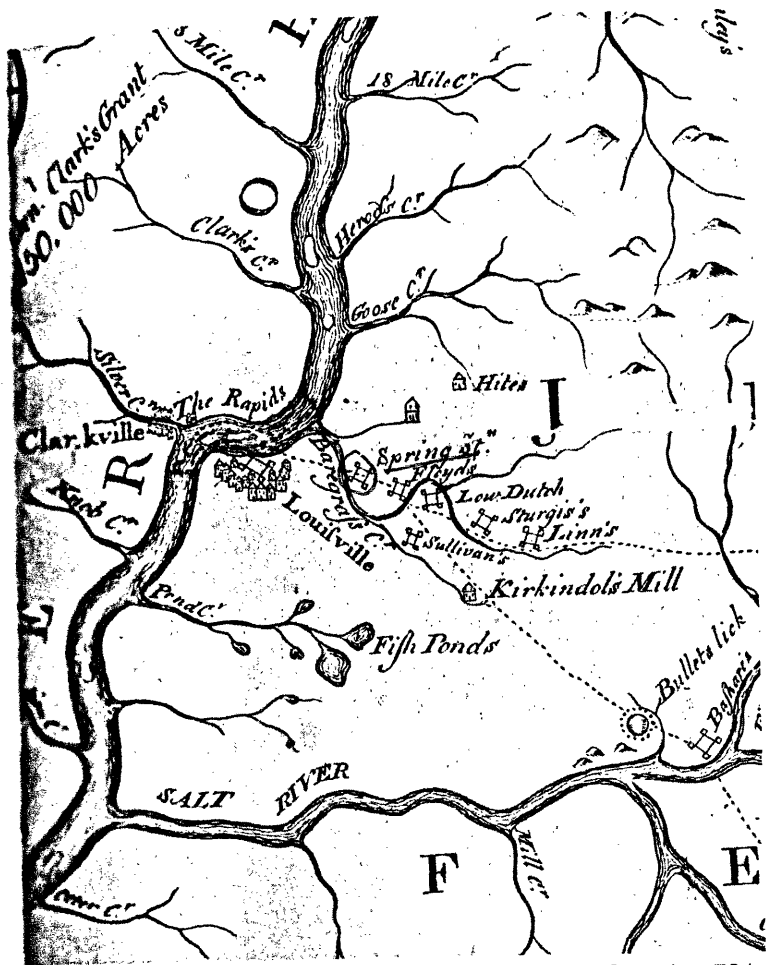


PROPERTY OF THE REGISTER

Spring Station
Louisville Jefferson County
Kentucky
Atlas of Jefferson & Oldham
Counties (1879)
Map 2 Map showing Spring
Station as residence of
A. A. Polk.

DEC 12 1977

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Section of first map of Kentucky published by Filson in 1784.

17.

19.



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Spring Station
Louisville Jefferson County
Kentucky

S. W. Thomas, ed.

Views of Louisville (1971)

Map 3, Filson Map of 1784.

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