

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCRS use only

received

JUL 22 1982

date entered

1. Name

historic Mansfield (Thomas Hart Clay House)

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number Richmond Road NA
not for publication

city, town Lexington NA vicinity of congressional district 6th

state Kentucky code 021 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 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"/> n/a in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> NA being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Dr. and Mrs. James Gay

street & number Richmond Road

city, town Lexington NA vicinity of state Kentucky

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Fayette County Courthouse

street & number West Main Street

city, town Lexington state Kentucky

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Kentucky Building Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date May 16, 1971 federal state county local

depository for survey records Heritage Division - Kentucky Department of the Arts

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

Mansfield is located on the south side of the Richmond Road approximately two-and-one-half miles from the Fayette County Courthouse in Lexington, Kentucky. Designed by well-known Kentucky architect Major Thomas Lewinski, this house was contracted for by the Honorable Henry Clay as a residence for his son, Thomas Hart Clay. According to architectural historian Clay Lancaster: "From the moment contracts were assigned in July (1845) the Thomas Hart Clay house was referred to as Mansfield, which name it still retains. Located outside of Lexington beyond Ashland (Henry Clay's home), in its original state it was a Greek Revival cottage composed of four rectangular rooms on the first floor, each measuring seventeen by twenty-one feet, in pairs flanking a transverse hall in two sections, the staircase at the rear (Photo 1). The two rooms on the right served living and dining purposes; and the other two were bedrooms. A pair of additional bedrooms were on the upper floor. The kitchen and service rooms occupied the ample basement. The Greek Ionic portico, pilasters and full entablature give the little house a dignity in advance of its size."¹ In 1927, when under the ownership of Lexington entrepreneur John Stoll, wings designed by one of Kentucky's best twentieth century architects, Robert McMeekin, were constructed (Photo 2). These well proportioned and sensitively designed additions added two bedrooms and three baths to east side and on the west, a sitting room and large living room (Photo 3). Mansfield is one of the important residences within the Bluegrass region, not only for its connection with the prominent Clay family, but also for the artistic talents of two leading Kentucky architects.

In Major Lewinski's Account Book is recorded: "Ashland 8 o'clock -- received instructions for drawings for T. Clay's house and commenced same--5 hours." He designed a small and compact Greek Revival house and it was detailed in this mode, including high baseboards, two paneled doors and Greek eared frames for the openings (Photo 4). The only changes came in 1927, when Robert McMeekin was retained to design additions. On the exterior, he followed the style set by Lewinski by having pilasters and hooded windows (Photos 5 and 6). These graceful wings give the mass of the house a more Federal appearance. These wings have chairrailing and Federal style mantels and it was probably at this time that the fine old Federal mantels and the chairrailing were introduced into the main block of the house (Photos 7 and 8). The other change resulting from the 1927 addition was the reduction in size of the east bed chamber in order to create a hallway to the east wing. This room was then converted into the main floor kitchen. At the rear of the house was a simple stone stoop. In the 1970s a porch was designed, again by Robert McMeekin, and constructed in order to give the house a screened-in area for the summer (Photo 9). The main block retains its handsome random width ash flooring.

Only one outbuilding remains from the original farm known as Mansfield. This is the smokehouse (Photo 10) and it and the main house are included in the 4.1 acres nominated. This includes the driveway approach off of Shriners Lane and the scenic view of the house which faces Richmond Road.

¹Richard Bean, "A History of the Henry Clay Family Properties," unpublished manuscript, Lexington, 1980.

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 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1845 **Builder/Architect** Major Thomas Lewinski

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Mansfield, located approximately two-and-one-half miles east of the Fayette County Courthouse in Lexington, Kentucky, was commissioned by one of our nation's best known political figures, Henry Clay. It was designed by Major Thomas Lewinski of whom most architectural historians agree made some of the greatest contributions to Kentucky architecture during the nineteenth century. The twentieth century wings were designed by Robert McMeekin who is considered to be one of Kentucky's finest architects. The house is an outstanding example of a small Greek Revival residence. Its later wings, in a scale complimentary to the main block, utilize many of the Greek Revival exterior features. In 1845, Henry Clay commissioned Major Lewinski to design this Greek Revival cottage for his son, Thomas Hart Clay on land once owned by one of Lexington's founders, Levi Todd. The land later was owned by Colonel John Todd who fell at the Battle of Blue Licks in 1782 and who had named the land Mansfield as a compliment to Lord Mansfield.

Thomas Hart Clay was the second son of Henry Clay, born September 22, 1803. He and his elder brother, Theodore W. Clay, were instructed by Amos Kendall during part of the time Henry Clay was abroad engaging in the Treaty of Ghent. He studied law with Chief Justice Boyle; was admitted to the bar and practiced for a time at Natchez, then at Terre Haute, but finally returned to Lexington, where he and his father became much interested in the manufacture of hemp. October 5, 1837, he married Marie Mentelle, French emigré from Paris, France, who left that country during the reign of terror and settled in Gallipolis. The Mentelle family later moved to Lexington, and spent their remaining days at "Rose Cottage," opposite Ashland. Thomas Hart Clay was a consistent Whig until the disruption of that party. In 1860, while a member of the legislature, he strongly opposed every endeavor to take Kentucky out of the Union. In October 1862, Mr. Lincoln appointed him minister resident of the United States Republic of Nicaragua, where he was transferred to Honduras in 1863. His health becoming impaired, he returned to Lexington, where he died March 18, 1871.

Major Thomas Lewinski came to Lexington in 1842. He was born in England of a Polish father who had married an English woman. He had been educated to be a Roman Catholic priest but later became a soldier and fought in Spain. It is believed that he was technically trained in the field of engineering and this combined with a literary background fitted him to eventually teach at the University of Louisville before coming to Lexington. His second wife was Miss Mary Watkins, a niece of Henry Clay. On February 14, 1846 he ran the following advertisement in the Lexington Observer and Reporter: "T. LEWINSKI (ARCHITECT) - will be pleased to make such drawings, specifications +c, as are necessary for the construction of Public Edifices and Private Residences, Mansions or Cottages, in the most complete and satisfactory manner, that the citizens may favor him with." According to Clay Lancaster, "After the architect Gideon Shryock and the builder John McMurtry, the man next in line for having made the greatest contribution to Kentucky architecture is Major Thomas Lewinski. Lewinski began his practice in Central Kentucky shortly after Shryock had quit this area to establish his home in Louisville, Lewinski becoming McMurtry's most serious competitor only a few years after the latter young man had launched his career and attained initial success. Gideon Shryock had been

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 4.1

Quadrangle name Lexington East, Ky.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A	<u>16</u>	<u>722115</u>	<u>4211080</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<u>16</u>	<u>722005</u>	<u>4211180</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<u>16</u>	<u>722920</u>	<u>4210995</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

D	<u>16</u>	<u>722004</u>	<u>4211005</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

E	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

F	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

G	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

H	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
<u>N/A</u>			

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Richard S. DeCamp, Executive Director

organization Lexington-Fayette Co. Historic Commission date May 3, 1982

street & number 253 Market Street telephone (606)255-8312

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Mary Crown Opper

title State Historic Preservation Officer date July 12, 1982

For HCPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Alvin Byrne Entered in the National Register date 8/19/82

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**

MANSFIELD , Fayette County, Kentucky

CONTINUATION SHEET

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Kentucky's first trained professional architect--John McMurtry having served a very limited apprenticeship under the master by way of training--and hence the arrival of Major Lewinski upon the scene marked the appearance of the second real architect in the region.

¹
A 250-acre tract upon which Mansfield was later constructed was purchased by Henry Clay from Charles Wilkins and his wife Jane (nee Todd) in 1815.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bean, Richard M. "A History of the Henry Clay Family Properties" unpublished manuscript, Lexington, 1980.

Lancaster, Clay. Ante Bellum Houses of the Bluegrass. Lexington, Kentucky: University of Kentucky Press, 1961.

_____. "Major Thomas Lewinski, Emigre Architect in Kentucky" Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians. Volume XL, No. 4, December 1952, pp. 13-20.

Simpson, Elizabeth. Bluegrass Houses and Their Traditions. Lexington, Kentucky: Transylvania Press, 1932.

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MANSFIELD, Fayette County, Kentucky

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

Verbal boundary:

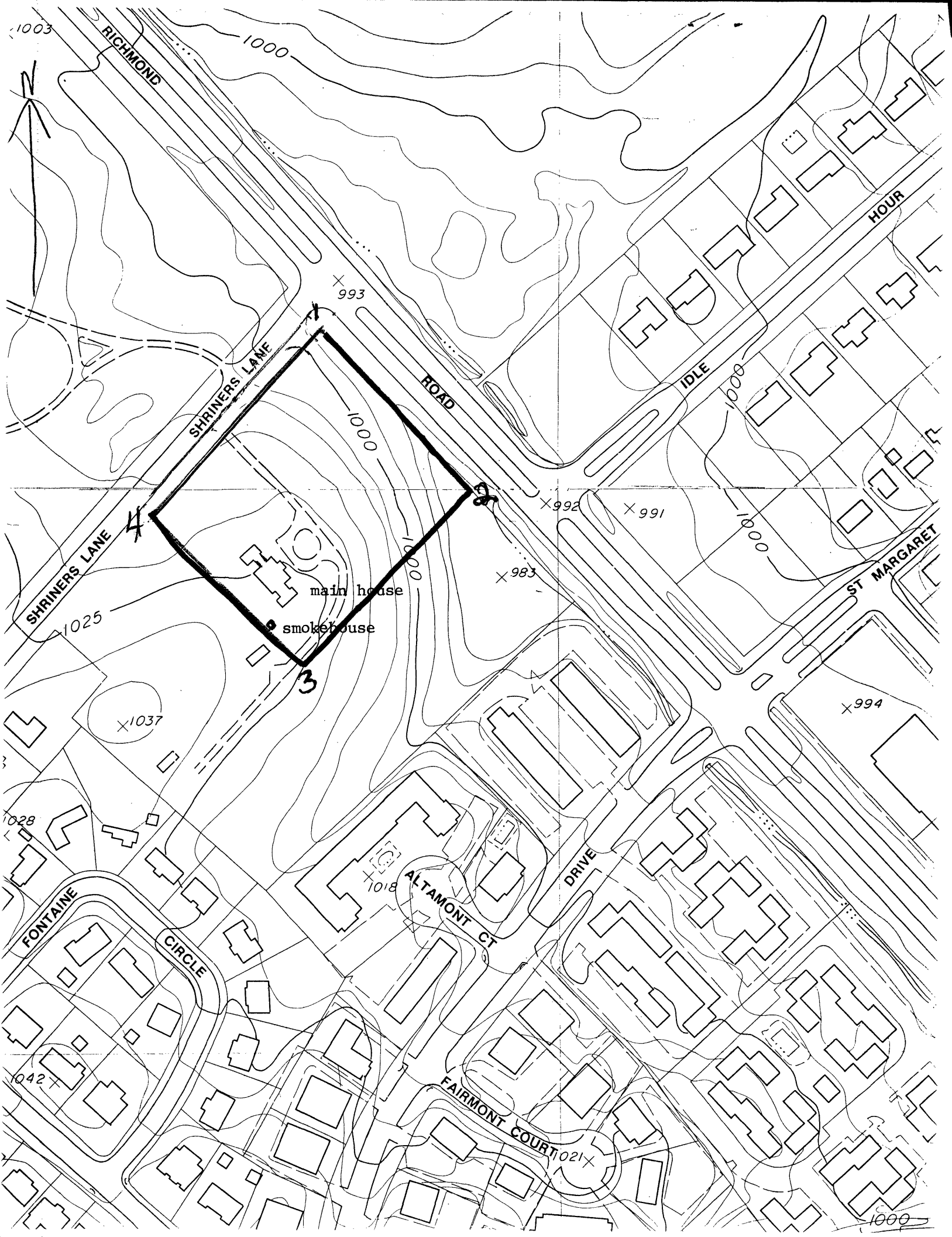
SEE MAP 1.

The boundary begins at a point (1) at the north corner of the property (point 1 is approximately 35 feet south of the intersection of Shriners Lane and Richmond Road) and proceeds southeast along the northeast property line 400 feet to a point (2) thence southwest along a line 475 feet to a point (3) thence 375 feet to a point (4) thence northeast along the property line 455 feet to the point of origin, thereby incorporating the house, smokehouse and wooded front lawn which shield the residence from a busy thoroughfare.

In general, the NE boundary can be said to be the right-of-way line on the NE side of Richmond Road; the western boundary, the right-of-way line on the eastern side of Shriners Lane; the line extended to the south and east to encompass the smokehouse and drive.

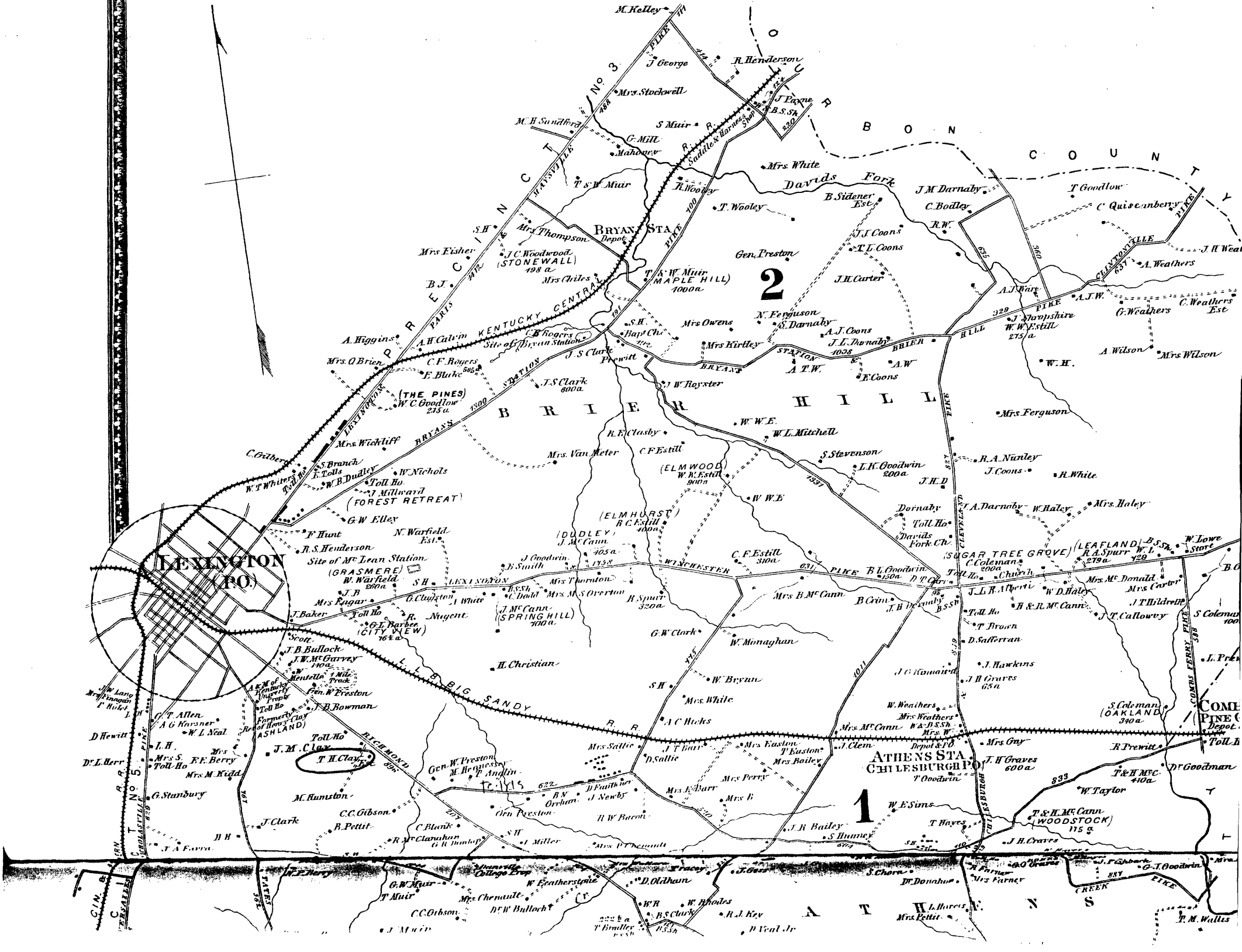
JUSTIFICATION

The house sits on an eleven-acre lot in a residential section on the southeast end of Lexington. The boundary is drawn to include sufficient amount of acreage to incorporate what was originally a rural setting on the outskirts of Lexington, and the remaining historic outbuilding.



Mansfield
Fayette County, Kentucky
Urban County Planning Commission Map
Current
Scale 1" = 200'
Map 1 of 4

Nominated area shown in red.



Mansfield
Fayette County, Kentucky
D.G. Beers & Co.
1877
Scale $1\frac{1}{4}" = 1$ mile
Map 2 of 4



SANDERSVILLE

LEXINGTON

FROGTOWN

ATHENS

CHILDESBURG

LEGG

CARLETON

PLEASANT BREE

PLEASANT BREE

PLEASANT BREE

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Mansfield
Fayette County, Kentucky
Hewitt Map
1861
Scale: Unknown
Map 3 of 4