

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED

DEC 8 1980

**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

Bell Court Neighborhood Historic District

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

*Remainder bounded by RR tracks, Main St.,
Boonesboro and Walton Aves.*

STREET & NUMBER

Bell Court, West Bell Court, East Bell Court, Forest Avenue, Sayre Ave.,
Russell Avenue, Delmar Avenue, sections of Boonesboro Avenue, Main
Street, and Skain Alley

CITY, TOWN

Lexington

— VICINITY OF

6th

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Kentucky

CODE
021

COUNTY

Fayette

CODE

067

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

See continuations sheets

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

— VICINITY OF

STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Fayette County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

215 W. Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Lexington

STATE

Ky.

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky

DATE

June-July, 1980

— FEDERAL STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Kentucky Heritage Commission

CITY, TOWN

Frankfort

STATE
Kentucky

7 DESCRIPTION

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

The Bell Court Neighborhood District consists of 157 buildings, nearly all of which are residences, located on the north side of East Main Street southeast of downtown Lexington. The boundaries roughly follow the rear boundaries of properties along the western side of Forest Avenue, the northern side of Boonesboro Avenue, and the eastern side of Bell Court East (with the exception of 624 Boonesboro, the only building on the south side of Boonesboro). Bell Court East ends at Sayre Avenue; the properties fronting on Sayre east of East Bell Court are also included. The north side of East Main from 497-631 forms the southern boundary of the district.

The core of the district is Bell Place, an impressive mansion reconstructed--after the original Sayre House, built by the well-known architect, Thomas Lewinski, burned in 1884--by architect William Stewart ca. 1890 for D.D. Bell and combining Greek Revival and Romanesque elements (photo 1). The handsome, two-story brick house with colossal portico is surrounded by approximately five acres of land. A charming carriage house with overhanging eaves and gabled dormers also is on the property. Bell Place is used as a senior citizen center by the city of Lexington with the green behind used as a park while the carriage house serves as headquarters and theatre for a local theatre group. Both buildings were entered on the National Register of Historic Places February 7, 1978.

The earliest house in the district is Clay Villa, built for James B. Clay ca. 1846 by Thomas Lewinski at 121 Forest Avenue on the western boundary of the district (photo 2). It is Italianate (or Tuscan) in style with Greek Revival details, a square symmetrical brick house with hipped roof and four long interior paneled chimneys; its walls are divided into three sections by applied segmental arches between wide pilaster-like forms with narrow vertical panels. Originally enclosed by galleries on three sides with brick corner pavillions, all now gone, the house has been divided into four apartments and fronts Forest Avenue today whereas it once faced East Main Street. Two of the physical intrusions in the district are part of the Clay Villa apartment complex, one two-story brick six-unit building behind it and another thirty-unit brick building with flat roof north of it at 131 Forest (photo 3).

The other two physical intrusions in the district are next to each other on East Main Street. At 513 is a two-story brick apartment building with gable end facing the street, not incompatible in size and distance from the street with its neighbors. The other is the Barclay East Apartments at 521, two two-story motel-like brick buildings with stone facing linked by three monumental arches through which one enters the courtyard (photo 4).

The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd at the southwest corner of East Main and Bell Court, which was completed in 1925-26 (although the parish house is some five years earlier), is the only other structure for public use in the district (photos 5 and 6); however, some houses along Sayre Avenue are used by the Episcopal Theological Seminary and as headquarters for the Episcopal Diocese of Lexington. The church itself is a sterling example of the simplified late Gothic Revival style, sometimes known as Collegiate Gothic. The Boston firm of Cram and Ferguson, whose principal, Ralph Adams Cram, was the leader of the early twentieth-century ecclesiastical revival in architecture and church fittings, is said to have acted as consultant for the design which was executed by the local firm of Frankel and Curtis. Local stone was used for the exterior while the interior gains much of its effect through dignified and appropriate use

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 checked="" 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/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input 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 _____ BUILDER/ARCHITECT _____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Bell Court Neighborhood Historic District is a cohesive, middle-class residential area just southeast of downtown Lexington, that retains its architectural integrity and social identity despite its age and proximity to the ever-changing inner city. Developed around the turn of the century, it does contain within it, however, an earlier house, the Italianate Clay Villa, built ca. 1846, and Bell Place, an eclectic house rebuilt ca. 1890 on the foundation of the original Sayre House. In addition to a handsome late Gothic Revival church (the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd) and a few later apartment buildings, the architectural styles of houses in the District vary from several elegant Queen Anne and Richardsonian/Romanesque houses of the late nineteenth century to a majority of twentieth century types; these include Arts and Crafts/Cubic houses--with or without projecting bays and Colonial Revival details--as well as more modest cottages and bungalows. Most of the houses are basically intact and set back equidistant from the street with handsome large trees lining the sidewalks and shading the porches.

Near enough to the commercial center of the city for its residents to walk to work, the district is nevertheless a separate entity defined on the east and west by well-traveled streets connecting East Third Street (Winchester Road) and East Main Street (Richmond Road); on the south by East Main, a busy four-lane thoroughfare; and on the north by the rear property lines along the north side of Boonesboro, the back street of the Bell Place Land Co. Addition. Its residential character has been reinforced by a core of owners who have lived there since it was developed and by the Bell Court Neighborhood Association, an active group organized in 1964 and composed of all the property owners in the area except those along East Main Street. The owners in the past have been businessmen and white-collar workers with a sprinkling of professionals; recently, the neighborhood has enjoyed an influx of young professionals also interested in preservation and rejuvenation of the architecture in, as well as the ambiance of, the neighborhood.

* * * * *

The Bell Court Neighborhood Historic District was developed from basically three tracts of land with two of the original estate houses still remaining (although one has been rebuilt). Clay Villa at 121 Forest Avenue, was built by the well-known architect Thomas Lewinski, ca. 1846 for James B. Clay, Henry Clay's son, who was later appointed "charge d'affairs" to Lisbon, Portugal; he moved to Missouri in 1851, having lived in Clay Villa for about four years. (James Clay later returned to Lexington, living at Ashland, his father's estate.) Bell Place was reconstructed for D.D. Bell ca. 1890 after a devastating fire destroyed the original Sayre House, also built ca. 1846 from drawings by Lewinski. David Sayre, who came to Lexington in ✓

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation sheet.

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED
UTM NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 42.29

QUADRANGLE NAME Lexington East Quadrangle

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A | 16 | 72,0 | 75,0 | 42131220

B | 16 | 72097,0 | 42130,0,0

ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C | 16 | 72,0 | 64,0 | 42126,3,5

ZONE EASTING NORTHING
D | 16 | 72,0 | 28,5 | 42130,2,0

E | 16 | 72,0 | 3,9,0 | 421311,1,5

F | | | | |

G | | | | |

H | | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See continuation sheet.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Beebe Park, Researcher

Bettie L. Kerr, Researcher

ORGANIZATION

Lexington-Fayette County Historic Commission

DATE

August, 1980

STREET & NUMBER

253 Market Street

TELEPHONE

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Donna C. Hopkins

TITLE

Acting SHPO

DATE

10-22-80

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

W. Ray Love
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

12/8/80

ATTEST:

Shirley M. McCallum
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

12/4/80

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CONTINUATION SHEET Bell Court . ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE 2

EAST MAIN STREET

- 497 Duncan Stewart
248 Holiday Road 40502
- 499 Citizens Union Bank
Trustee for Bess T. Christian
Citizens Bank Square 40508
- 505 Lon B. Rogers
505 East Main Street 40508
- 509 Chi Fraternity Incorporated
National Board of Treasurers of Theta
848 Riverside Avenue
Trenton, New Jersey 08618
- 513 Rodes and Edith Feeback
212 East Second Street 40508
- 521 Clifton and Renee Smith
771 Chinoe Road 40502
- 533 The Rector, The Warden and
The Vestry
Church of the Good Shepherd
533 East Main Street 40508
- 601 Amanda Lee Holladay
P.O. Box 72
Longwood, Florida 32750
- 603 Charles E. and Allie Hendricks
603 East Main Street 40508
- 609 Harvey J. and Nancy Whitehouse
609 East Main Street 40508
- 611 J. J. and Hallie F. Crutchfield
611 East Main Street 40508
- 615 Gertrude M. Trapp
615 East Main Street 40508
- 625 Pearl Bastin Herring
c/o First Security National Bank
Trust Department
1 Security Plaza 40508

EAST MAIN STREET (continued)

- 631 Mae Arnett Carter
631 East Main Street 40508
- FOREST AVENUE
- 116 Will Moore Kendall
1265 Kastle Road 40502
- 117- Robert Gayle and Beverly Rose
119 c/o Roses Pharmacy, Incorporated
RFD Box C
Olive Hill, Kentucky 41164
- 120 Ola R. Robinson and Ray Randall
120 Forest Avenue 40508
- 121- Don Jacobs
131 Nicholasville Road 40503
- 122 Rose S. Shrimpton
122 Forest Avenue 40508
- 133 Gertrude Salyer Ivy
133 Forest Avenue
- 136 Jane T. Estes
2200 Richmond Road 40502
- 137 James R. and Carolyn K. Smith
137 Forest Avenue 40508
- 138 Robert C. and Lynne Tussey
138 Forest Avenue 40508
- 141 Sarah Stanfill
141 Forest Avenue 40508
- 144 Grace M. Haddix
144 Forest Avenue 40508
- 147 Jesse and Alza Stratton
147 Forest Avenue 40508

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FOREST AVENUE (Continued)

- 148 Charles and Bonnie J. Pugh
148 Forest Avenue 40508
- 149 Blanche L. Hogan
149 Forest Avenue 40508
- 150 Thomas M. and Melinda Kelly
150 Forest Avenue 40508
- 152 Denis and Judith Showalter
152 Forest Avenue 40508
- 154 Harold Raynor Butner
154 Forest Avenue 40508
- 157 Jane Tiernan Blair
157 Forest Avenue 40508
- 158 James and Donna Young
158 Forest Avenue 40508
- 159 John J. and Elizabeth Barrett
159 Forest Avenue
- 163 Elizabeth Thompson, Harkness Edwards III,
T. W. and C. Miller
700 Security Trust Building 40507
- 167 David H. and Betty Yarber
167 Forest Avenue 40508
- 168 Joseph R. and Margaret Jones
2129 Hart Court 40502
- 170 Kitty Robinson
c/o J. M. Robinson
108 Hagerman Court 40508
- 172 Arthur S. and Margaret Peter
172 Forest Avenue 40508
- 173 John A. Rea
173 Forest Avenue 40508

SAYRE AVENUE

- 520- Anne E. and Eugene Flood
522 520 Sayre Avenue 40508
- 524 Frances Mae Blevins
230 Bell Court East 40508
- 530 Diocese of Lexington - Episcopal
530 Sayre Avenue 40508
- 536 Diocese of Lexington - Episcopal
530 Sayre Avenue 40508
- 540 Episcopal Theological Seminary
in Kentucky
544 Sayre Avenue 40508
- 544 Episcopal Theological Seminary
544 Sayre Avenue 40508
- 545 Lexington-Fayette Urban County
Government
163 Walnut Street 40507
- 600 Robert A. Hackett
600 Sayre Avenue 40508
- 602 W. Robert Insko
602 Sayre Avenue 40508
- 604 John F. and Marjorie D. Harrison
604 Sayre Avenue 40508
- 606 Betsy C. Glasscock
606 Sayre Avenue 40508
- 620 Stephen E. and Linda Ladue
620 Sayre Avenue 40508
- 621 Guy M. Davenport, Jr.
621 Sayre Avenue 40508
- 622 Eugene L. Gribbon
622 Sayre Avenue 40508

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SAYRE AVENUE (continued)

- 624 Steve J. Banahan, Jr. and Mabel
Morris Banahan
624 Sayre Avenue 40508
- 625 R. M. and Evelyn M. Talbott
625 Sayre Avenue 40508
- 629 Dorothy W. Mead
629 Sayre Avenue 40508
- 630 Katherine Robinson Robb
630 Sayre Avenue 40508
- 634 William H. and Dorothea L. Clark
805 Chinoe Road 40502

BELL COURT WEST

- 137 William G. and Carolyn L. Kenton
137 Bell Court West 40508
- 141 Theodore L. and Mary Brewer Adams
141 Bell Court West 40508
- 145 George and Alva Scott, Jr.
145 Bell Court West 40508
- 149 Susan S. O'Neill
149 Bell Court West 40508
- 153 Stanley E. and Carolyn S. Jones
153 Bell Court West
- 155 Zoya B. Ronvaux
155 Bell Court West 40508
- 157 Everett R. and Bernice Furnish
157 Bell Court West 40508
- 159 George W. and Betty L. Gunther
159 Bell Court West
- 161 Mary Catherine LaFleche
161 Bell Court West 40508

BELL COURT WEST (continued)

- 163 John L. and Ann P. Cutler
163 Bell Court West 40508
- 210 William Scott and Martha Scott
210 Bell Court West 40508
- 211 Charlotte H. Weidlich
404 Lin-Wal Drive 40504
- 215 David and Else K. Bolotin
and Bobby and Lois Marshall
215 Bell Court West 40508
- 218 Harold G. and Nell Flanary
218 Bell Court West 40508
- 219 Gilbert and Pauline D. Nieto
2044 Georgian Way 40504
- 220 Sarah E. Haynes
220 Bell Court West 40508
- 221 First Security National Bank
and Trust
1, First Security Plaza 40508
- 225 Jessie May Welch
583 Cane Run Road 40504
- 227 Edmond A. and Grace R. Karam
917 Wolf Run 40504
- 256 Hart Estates
1164 Lakewood Drive 40502
- 258 Mary Susan Kerns
604 Pasadena Drive 40503
- 260 Jean Thomson Belt
305 E. Concord Street
Orlando, Florida 32801

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BELL COURT EAST

- 130 Mamie W. Wilder
P. O. Box 1049 40588
- 132 James W. and Mildred Moss
132 Bell Court East 40508
- 136 Winifred S. Reynolds
136 Bell Court East 40508
- 140 R. Bingham and Martha F. Robinson
140 Bell Court East 40508
- 146 Jane Skinner Anderson
146 Bell Court East 40508
- 150 Fon and Phyllis B. Rogers
150 Bell Court East 40508
- 154 Anthony Q. Baxter
154 Bell Court East 40508
- 158 Louis A. and Grace H. Chiles
158 Bell Court East 40508
- 160 Lexington Baptist College
151 Walton Avenue 40508
- 164 Katherine Forsythe
164 Bell Court East 40508
- 200 Sarah Bell Creech, Martha Blake Piatt,
and Jeanette Bell Hukle
200 Bell Court East 40508
- 206 Raymond D. and Suzanne H. Martorano
206 Bell Court East 40508
- 208 H. Melvin and Cecelia Hukle
208 Bell Court East 40508
- 209 Ralph B. and Mary Catherine Bolin
209 Bell Court East 40508
- 211 Donald G. and Barbara L. Taylor
211 Bell Court East 40508

BELL COURT EAST (continued)

- 212 Jean B. Bates
212 Bell Court East 40508
- 214 Gertha Tomlinson
214 Bell Court East 40508
- 216 Mattie H. Jones
216 Bell Court East 40508
- 222 Ross L. and Ruth C. Range
222 Bell Court East 40508
- 223 Brian A. and Barbara A. Lunde
223 Bell Court East 40508
- 225 Loren L. and Diane E. Miller
225 Bell Court East 40508
- 226 Charles A. Grutchfield
226 Bell Court East 40508
- 229 Bradley and Reda N. Leasor
1034 Della Drive 40504
- 230 Frances Mae Blevins
230 Bell Court East 40508
- 231 Gary L. and Erma J. Uglem
231 Bell Court East 40508
- 232 Brice L. and Elizabeth H. Farrar
232 Bell Court East 40508

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DELMAR AVENUE

- 216 Kim S. Larmore and Paula H.
Larmore
216 Delmar Avenue 40508
- 220 Edgar H. Boone
220 Delmar Avenue 40508
- 222 H. B. Renfroe and Olga Renfroe
222 Delmar Avenue 40508
- 237 Andy and Sylvia McFarland
237 Delmar Avenue 40508
- 239 Lynn G. Brymagen
Clover Bottom, Kentucky 40414
- 241 Ernest L. and Oneita Ford and
Elsie Cheek
241 Delmar Avenue 40508
- 247 Goldie May
251 Delmar Avenue 40508
- 248 John A. and L. H. Bloomfield
248 Delmar Avenue 40508
- 251 Goldie May
251 Delmar Avenue 40508
- 253 Whitney R. and Margaret H. Innes
253 Delmar Avenue 40508
- 255 Robert R. and Mary R. Taliaferro
255 Delmar Avenue 40508
- 258 Habeeb M. Metry
258 Delmar Avenue 40508
- 262 Leo F. Range
178 Bassett Avenue 40502

RUSSELL AVENUE

- 505 Mary and Raymond Keller and
Barbara Keller Smith
505 Russell Avenue 40508
- 509 Robert W. and Katherine H. Shaw
509 Russell Avenue 40508
- 513 Richard T. Stofer
513 Russell Avenue
- 517 John P. and Elizabeth A. Elder
517 Russell Avenue 40508
- 519 Gladys Pruett
519 Russell Avenue 40508
- 525 Thomas A. and Julia F. Grunwald
525 Russell Avenue 40508
- 531 John R. and Eileen R. Neill
531 Russell Avenue 40508
- 535 H. K. and Caroline English
535 Russell Avenue 40508
- 539 Linda K. Curry
539 Russell Avenue 40508
- 601 Sam T. Adams and Thomas T. Adams, Jr.
601 Russell Avenue 40508
- 605 Janet Golden
605 Russell Avenue 40508
- 609 Robert P. and Marianna B. Heister
609 Russell Avenue 40508
- 611 Rosemary Graves
611 Russell Avenue 40508
- 615 Jay R. and Patti P. Pierce
615 Russell Avenue 40508

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BOONESBORO AVENUE

- 525 Lowell D. Jones
525 Boonesboro Avenue 40508

- 527 Esther Shelton
14, Twenty first Street, North
Apartment 4
St. Petersburg, Florida 33713

- 529 Thomas L. and Linda L. Robl
529 Boonesboro Avenue 40508

- 531 B. Wayne Sullivan
531 Boonesboro Avenue 40508

- 539 Mable Banahan
624 Sayre Avenue 40508

- 543 Dr. and Mrs. Robert Seager
543 Boonesboro Avenue 40508

- 597 Steve and Mabel M. Banahan
624 Sayre Avenue 40508

- 601 Woodrow W. Henry, Jr. and
Clyde L. Henry
601 Boonesboro Avenue 40508

- 603 Alice A. Vaughn
603 Boonesboro Avenue 40508

- 605 Janet Gold
605 Boonesboro Avenue 40508

- 607 George H. and Alma Johnson
General Delivery
Wellington, Kentucky 40387

- 609 Lodema F. Lenihan
609 Boonesboro Avenue 40508

BOONESBORO AVENUE (continued)

- 611 Raymond H. Popovich
611 Boonesboro Avenue 40508

- 615 George H. Johnson
General Delivery
Wellington, Kentucky 40387

- 617 Norma and Doris Creed, Grace Ownes,
and Barbara Whalen
617 Boonesboro Avenue 40508

- 619 John Leininger and Mark Lyles
619 Boonesboro Avenue 40508

- 621 Virgil J. Kennedy and Sarah K.
Willmott
621 Boonesboro Avenue 40508

- 623 Harry and Bessie Kimbrell
623 Boonesboro Avenue 40508

- 624 Barry L. and Leslie B. Singer
624 Boonesboro Avenue 40508

- 625 Walter A. Brown
625 Boonesboro Avenue 40508

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Bell Court Neighborhood Historic District

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of wood, tile, Caen stone, and glass. Walter Langsam, Lexington-Fayette County Historic Commission architectural historian states, "A certain dryness in execution mars the exterior stonework and some interior detailing but the composition of the whole and the interior are remarkably handsome, well-proportioned, and satisfying in the use of materials."

The remainder of the district is homogeneous in nature; most of the residences are one-family with a few duplexes built in the same period as the houses. With the exception of some interesting individualistic houses along the west side of Forest Avenue (photo 7) and on East Main Street, the same styles with numerous variations are seen over and over again. In addition, the houses facing East Main, an important east-west thoroughfare, are more imposing in size and detail than the ones surrounding Bell Place, which in turn, are somewhat larger and handsomer than their modest neighbors on side and back streets of the district.

At 147 Forest Avenue is the Benjamin McCormick House in the Queen Anne/Eastlake style, which originally had a date of 1891 in its gable; it is noted for its unique "gingerbread" porches (photo 8). Lattice work spandrels with finials are interspersed with solid panels having applied sunbursts; below are heavy turned and bracketed posts and rails of interlocked turned spindles, creating an overall Oriental effect. Also early is the William R. Cockrell House at 509 Russell Avenue (the northwest corner of the district) built ca. 1890 in the late Richardsonian style; its mass is broken by rough stone lintels and sills around its varied window openings (photo 9).

Two outstanding Queen Anne/Shingle style houses anchor the ends of the East Main Street block (photos 10 and 11). Built 1895-1900 most likely by the same architect, the Jennie W. Smith House at 497 (now an exclusive dress shop) and the Edward L. Hutchinson House at 631 East Main are visual delights combining an amazing number and variety of unorthodox details into effective wholes. Both are three-and-one-half stories with steeply pitched cross-gable roofs, brick on the first floor and shingled above; undercut porches have rough stone boulder posts. Their gable ends overhang slightly, and a variety of projections, recessions and shaped window openings lead the eye upward.

The massive Kiel and Ada W. Pulliam House at 505 East Main, built ca. 1897, although stripped of its original porch--which has been replaced by a grand two-story portico with Corinthian columns--and given a classical frontispiece, is still impressive with its rough stone trim, coved frieze, and round two-story tower on the southeast corner (photo 12). The Louis des Cognets House at 509 East Main is a large Colonial Revival house built by the Combs Lumber Company ca. 1907 with elegant trim including a full entablature with dentils and modillions, stone belt course and keystones above the windows, and a doorway with elliptical fan and multi-paned sidelights (photo 13).

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The remainder of the houses in the district can reasonably be divided into three distinct types with variations. The Arts and Crafts/Cubic style, sometimes embellished with Colonial Revival details, is seen on every street; these are "blocky" houses of brick (some having shingles or frame above the first floor level), two-and-one-half stories high, with stone foundations, hip or gable roofs having dormer windows, and full one-story porches. Variables include window and door openings--although most windows have stone lintels and are one-over-one-paned-- porch trim, and enhancement of the basic shape with canted corners, bays and oriels. Many of the houses have overhanging eaves with decorative brackets or extended rafters. Examples of these include 622, 620 and 606 Sayre Avenue, all built ca. 1912-16, the first two having had their original porches replaced (photo 14); 615 Russell Avenue, and 206 Bell Court East, both ca. 1916, facing the park behind Bell Place (photo 15); and the row of houses southward from 137 Bell Court West, 137 (ca. 1911) having a shingled second story and being enlarged at the rear (photo 16). 226 Bell Court East, ca. 1916, is stuccoed and has a parapet-like dormer with curved and stepped top (photo 17).

Many of these Arts and Crafts/Cubic houses have projecting one or two bays on their facade such as these handsome examples: 222 Bell Court East, ca. 1916, with decorative stone keystones set in brick jack arches above the first-floor windows (photo 18) and 602 Sayre Avenue, ca. 1912, with a double-window projecting bay (photo 19). 148 Forest Avenue, ca. 1911, is more unusual with a semi-octagonal tower-like projecting bay on the southwest corner; the upper panes of the center windows of the bay have leaded glass (photo 20).

There are numerous cottages in the district which are one-and-one-half story brick, many with canted corners, wraparound porches on one corner and decorative window treatment in the gables of the projecting bays and on the dormer or dormers. Clay Lancaster, in his book Vestiges of the Venerable City, describes the one built by his father John W. Lancaster II at 215 Bell Court West in 1910 as having window "muntins reminiscent of leaded-glass patterns" (photo 21). The cottage at 607 Boonesboro, ca. 1921, has semi-circular fanlights set in stone arches in its gables (photo 22).

One-and-one-half-story bungalows with gable roofs and full one-story porches are sometimes stucco or brick or a combination of materials; many have dormers with casement windows, undercut porches, overhanging eaves supported by large brackets or extended rafters. 231 Bell Court East, ca. 1919, has a slightly overhanging second story which is covered with wood siding, casements windows in the large dormer which has fanciful half-timbered trim, and a stuccoed porch (photo 23). 262 Delmar, ca. 1916, is a charming stuccoed bungalow with porch railing of slats with a cut-out design; it has large geometric brackets supporting its overhanging roof (photo 24). 531 Russell Avenue, built ca. 1914 for John W. Lancaster by architect John V. Moore, is an unusual yellow brick bungalow with kick roof, oriel on its west side, stuccoed gable ends and dormer which have three round-headed windows set in a recessed panel with a small round decorative vent above. The arch of the windows is repeated in the openings in the porch parapet (photo 25).

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The last group of houses have their gable ends fronting the street; many have gambrel roofs like 629 Sayre Avenue, built ca. 1916, suggesting the Dutch Colonial style (photo 26). Others have straight-sided gables with some sort of decorative trim in the apex. 251 Delmar, built ca. 1916, has large brackets supporting the overhanging eaves with a horizontal board underneath the center one (photo 27). 621 Sayre Avenue, built ca. 1923, has a decorative ventilator in the apex of its gable and of its porch gable as well as a pattern of vertical, horizontal, and curved boards on the stuccoed gables (photo 26).

Houses in the district have been carefully maintained through the years and are basically intact except for some porches and/or additions or enclosures at the rear. The few intrusions in the area are the apartment buildings at 121-131 Forest and 513 and 521 East Main. Other than the Good Shepherd Episcopal Church and related offices, Bell Place, and one house along Main used as a shop, the district is entirely residential in character. Despite its proximity to the downtown commercial area, it is a separate and quiet enclave defined not only by its physical boundaries but by its neighborhood spirit.

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1811, became a leading citizen and founder of Sayre Bank and Sayre Female Institute and built a house comparable to his station in life, selling it with its 56 acres soon after to Henry Bell, father of D.D. In 1940, Bell Place and its grounds were given to the city by D.D. Bell's daughter, with the agreement that his widow could remain there until her death, which occurred in 1958.

Clay Villa and its surrounding twelve acres were sold by Clay to Harvey Miller in 1851; Miller sold the property to Gen. David S. Goodloe in 1856. Goodloe, a Madison County native, was appointed major general by the military organizations of the state and U.S. Assessor by President Lincoln, as well as serving as United States Pension Agent. He was for some time treasurer of Kentucky University and was a curator of that institution at the time of his death. After his death in 1881, the house was offered for sale by Goodloe's son and described as "large and one of the best in the city" and "handsome and well shaded with ornamental fruit trees." In 1888 the house was purchased by R.E. Edmonson, who began to sell the property off in lots and developed Forest Avenue, which he sold to the city in 1891. Forest Avenue was made to run along the eastern boundary of the Clay Villa property and the western boundary of the Bell property. Edmonson, a native of Clark County, moved to Lexington in 1881 after opening the first auction house in Sedelia, Missouri; according to an article in the Lexington Transcript, September 20, 1892, he was "the first of the bigtime horse auctioneers." He was also a real estate developer, selling properties in the Maxwell Street area as well as lots from the Clay Villa property. Houses built on Clay property include 497, 499, and 505 East Main Street as well as 117-119, 131, 133, 137, and 141 Forest Avenue.

The remainder of the west side of Forest Avenue and a few properties at the northwest corner of the district (505 and 509 Russell Avenue) were part of the plat recorded in the Courthouse in 1897 as Keller's Addition. General David S. Goodloe--who had also bought Clay Villa in 1856--and his son William C. Goodloe owned a large part of the land on the north side of Main between the railroad (Midland Avenue) and the Bell property. William C. was as prominent in his own right as his father; he served his uncle Cassius M. Clay, Minister to Russia, as his private secretary, was in the Union Army, later practiced law and served as a Republican in the State Legislature and Senate as well as in other political offices. The Goodloes started to subdivide their property as early as 1877, but after the General's death, John E. Keller bought and continued to develop the land. The first subdivision of the property--Goodloe's (or Keller's) Subdivision--was recorded in 1887 and showed lots west of the current district. The second plat, called Keller's Addition, showed seven lots on the west side of Forest and several where Esten (now Indiana) and Forest meet, as well as others. However, some of the houses were built before the plat was recorded, such as 147, 157, and 159 Forest and 509 Russell Avenue, all built in the early 1890s. John Esten Keller was a captain in the Confederate Army and later president of the Red Circle Pill Company, as well as being a real estate developer. He lived at 167 Forest in 1906-07, although the house had been built by 1893.

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The remainder of the area in the district (with the exception of 630 and 634 Sayre Avenue, 623, 624, and 625 Boonesboro, and 631 East Main, part of the Bell View Addition, which was platted in 1889 and included Walton Avenue and farther east) was developed by the Bell Place Land Company on land purchased from Clara Bell Walsh in 1906. (Mrs. Walsh retained Bell Place and approximately five acres surrounding it for her family.) The Company laid out the streets and sold the property in lots, some in private sale and some at auction, until 1914, by which time all of the lots had been sold and many of the houses had been built. J. Bishop Clay, organizer of the Bell Place Land Company, was one of the most prominent real estate dealers in Lexington at the time; besides Bell Place, he was active in the development of the Kenwich area of Lexington, handled real estate transactions for the L & N Railroad and helped to organize the Lexington Real Estate Exchange, serving as one of its first officers. Other partners in the Bell Place Land Company included Bishop Clay's brother William Rogers Clay, who served as Commissioner and later Judge of the Kentucky Court of Appeals; Henry T. Duncan, Jr., prominent attorney; Edward L. Hutchinson, one-time city attorney, president of the City Council, member of the Board of Aldermen, and president of the Lexington Bank and Trust Company--who had built and lived at 631 East Main Street for almost 50 years; and William Russell Cockrell, associated with the Lexington Lumber and Manufacturing Company before his retirement in 1905. W.R. Cockrell lived at 509 Russell Avenue after coming to Lexington about 1890 and organizing the firm of L.S. Campbell & Company that made tobacco hogsheads before becoming a general planing mill and carpentry shop and later merging with the Lexington Lumber and Manufacturing Company. He also built a nearby house for his daughter and her husband, Rebecca and R.T. Stofer, at 513 Russell Avenue. After Cockrell's death in 1917, his family continued to live at 509 until 1975.

The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd was begun as a mission of the Christ Church Cathedral (now Christ Church Episcopal) in 1888. It gained its independence from Christ Church in 1916 and moved to its present site on East Main Street at the entrance to Bell Court when the first section of the new building, now the Parish House, was erected in 1920-21. The cornerstone was laid by the grandson of generous supporter John E. Keller, who had developed Keller's Addition. The fortunes of the church were given a great boost in 1924 when the Reverend Thomas L. Settles became the first and most effective clergyman to speak to the State Legislature against the anti-pari-mutual bill, thus gaining the support of followers of the turf. Wealthy and prominent leaders of the horse industry, many not members of the church, began to support the ambitious building plans of Settle and the building committee, and the sanctuary was completed in 1926.

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Despite the variety in occupations of neighborhood residents, there has always been a core of outstanding citizens of Lexington who have lived in Bell Court and have figured prominently in the civic and business life of the community. These have included at least four mayors of Lexington: elected in 1907 was John Skain, one-time grocer, owner of the Leland Hotel and other properties, manager of the Phoenix Hotel, and director of the Phoenix and Third National Bank, whose family lived at 137 Forest Avenue from 1906-1951 and in whose honor Clark (or Clarke) street, also known as McCormick, was renamed in the 1930s; in the mid-1930s, Hogan Yancey, attorney, star athlete and University of Kentucky coach, who married Estelle des Cognets, daughter of Louis des Cognets of 509 East Main, and lived at both 136 Forest and 620 Sayre Avenues; in the early 1930s, William T. Congleton, founder and head of W.T. Congleton & Co. (specializing in building highways, street grading and excavation work) after being associated with his three cousins in Congleton Lumber Company, whose family lived at 525 Russell Avenue from 1912-1963; in the 1970s H. Foster Pettit, attorney, who lived at 524 Sayre Avenue from 1963-1974. Another resident of the neighborhood, Kiel W. Pulliam, ran for mayor in 1915 but was defeated. He was a prominent merchant and president of the Board of Aldermen and City Commissioner who built the imposing Richardsonian Romanesque house at 505 East Main in 1897 and lived there until 1919.

There were quite a number of well-known Main Street merchants and businessmen who made the Bell Court neighborhood their home. Louis des Cognets, who built the handsome Colonial Revival house at 509 East Main ca. 1907 (his widow was still here in 1935), was the son of Hippolyte, youngest brother of Count des Cognets of Brittany. Louis, only three when his father died, started his career as a messenger boy in a bank, made his fortune in coal, and "achieved a position as one of the strongest and most influential businessmen of Lexington and the state" (Kerr, IV, pp. 127-28). Besides his coal business, he was at one time Police and Fire Commissioner, a director in the First and City National Bank, and president of many public utilities including the Lexington Electric Light Company, the Lexington Street Railway Company, the Lexington Gas Company, and the Lexington Ice Manufacturing Company. R.W. Rounsavall lived at 622 Sayre from 1912 to 1918 and at 600 Sayre from 1919-1941 and was a prominent retail grocer as well as director of the First and City National Bank and curator of Transylvania College. Kerr says of Rounsavall that there were "few men better or more favorably known in the field of merchandise brokerage" (Kerr, III, p. 360).

At 524 Sayre Avenue from 1927 to 1944 was John B. Elliott and his family; Elliott was a promoter, president and general manager of the Phoenix Amusement Company and one of the "keenest businessmen in Lexington" (Kerr, III, p. 181). He built several theatres and at one time managed twelve in the Bluegrass area including the Strand, Ben Ali and Opera House. Henry Craig Shipp, president of Shipp and Company dry goods and ready-to-wear on Main Street lived at 154 Bell Court East from 1916-1938. Other

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prominent merchants who founded businesses in downtown Lexington which are still thriving include Dolph Wile of Wolf-Wile and Company who lived at 603 East Main Street from 1914-1932; Manuel Lowenthal of Lowenthal's furriers and clothiers who was at 136 Bell Court East from 1925-1951; David Ades of the Ades Lexington Dry Goods Company who lived at 170 Forest from 1915-1920; and Gordon H. Wilder of the elegant dress shop called the Loom and Needle--which he sold about 1976 but which still flourishes at the Lexington Center Mall--who has lived at 130 Bell Court East from 1939 until the present.

John W. Lancaster, whose family was involved in the shoe business in Lexington from 1852 until 1944, built 215 Bell Court West, where he lived in 1912-13, and 531 Russell Avenue, where he lived from 1916 to 1969. His son Clay Lancaster is the noted architectural historian and author. V.K. Dodge, one of the developers of the Lafayette Hotel and a pioneer in the manufacture of the automobile and Secretary-Treasurer of the Phoenix Motor Car Company, lived at 137 Bell Court West from 1911 until 1957. Several members of the McCormick family, who were associated with the McCormick Lumber Company, built and lived in houses on Forest Avenue. Joseph was at 141 from 1900-1905 and J.W. at 167 from 1893 until 1902. Benjamin F. lived at 147 from 1891-1905 before deeding it to his daughter Alice McCormick Combs (later Letton), who kept it until 1916; he then built 149 ca. 1905 and lived here until his death in 1912. B.F. also built for his daughter and her husband, Fannie and W.R. Cockrell, 509 Russell which he deeded them in 1894. Cockrell, as was mentioned earlier, was one of the partners in the Bell Place Land Company.

Other well-known persons who lived in the district were D.C. Hunter, Back-Tax Assessor for the city of Lexington and attorney who served three terms in the Kentucky House of Representatives, who lived at 621 Sayre Avenue from 1923 to 1935; and Edward L. Hutchinson, who was at 631 East Main Street for almost fifty years. Hutchinson came to Lexington as a private tutor in 1880, studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1884; he was city attorney, president of the City Council, and president of the Lexington Bank and Trust Company. Dr. A.D. Kirwan bought 535 Russell Avenue in 1955, where his widow still lives; he was a noted University of Kentucky professor, Southern historian and author, and the seventh president of the University. John W. Townsend, a Kentucky historian and author, lived at 132 Bell Court East from 1953-66 before moving to 539 Russell Avenue.

Other residents of the area have included owners of small businesses, insurance agents and realtors, clerks and bookkeepers, engineers, teachers, salesmen, and retired farmers.

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Many have moved from one house to another within the area. Besides those previously mentioned, Virgil McClure, vice president of Transylvania Printing Company, lived at 132 Bell Court East in 1916; when his father-in-law, the Reverend J.R. Deering died in 1917, the McClures moved to his home at 133 Forest Avenue where he lived until the 1940s. The Rev. George Ragland, pastor of the First Baptist Church on West Main Street, and his family lived at 229 Bell Court East from 1923-26 before moving to 216 Bell Court East, where they lived until 1960.

A sense of continuity within the district has been created by the number of families who have lived in the same area for so many years. The family of Edward Owens, C & O Railroad engineer, was at 157 Forest Avenue from 1895 until 1965. William Butner, owner and president of Butner Produce Company, lived at 154 Forest from 1911 until 1947; his son Harold still lives here. Harry O. Skinner, treasurer of Skinner and Green Transportation Company, and later his widow were at 146 Bell Court East from 1916 until 1973. Samuel L. Bastin, president of Elkhorn Coal Company in Letcher County and "one of the pioneers in coalfield development in Eastern and Southeastern Kentucky" (Lexington Herald, 3/29/50, p. 11) lived at 625 East Main from 1921 to 1956; his daughter Pearl and her husband Dr. Harry G. Herring also lived here until the house was sold last year. Fon Rogers, president of the Rogers Brothers Coal Company, moved to 505 East Main Street in 1923; his family still owns the property, and a son also lives at 150 Bell Court East. J.T. Hukle built a house at 200 Bell Court East in 1908; his daughters still live there.

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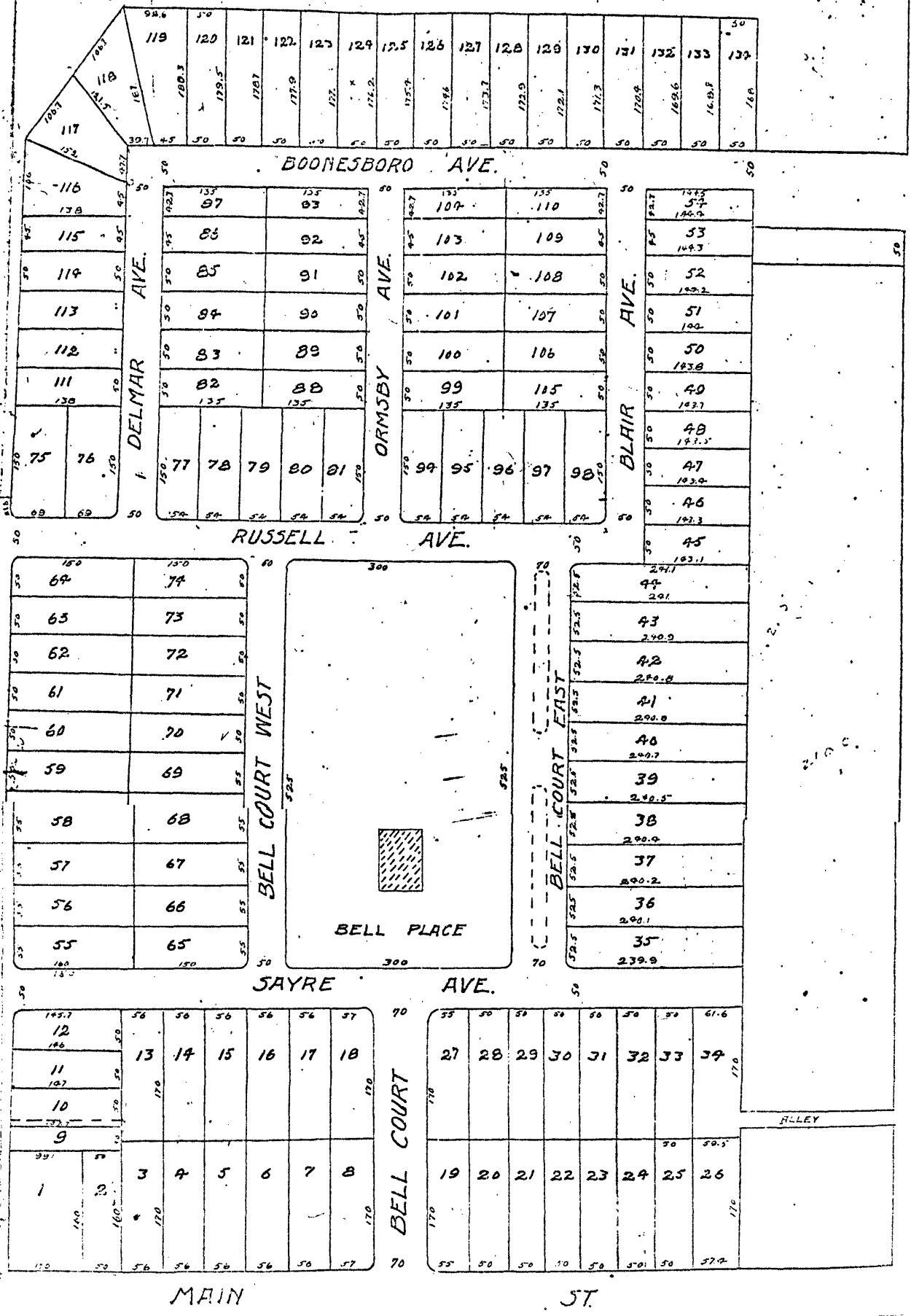
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Verbal Boundary Description

The district begins at the northeast corner of the property at 625 Boonesboro Avenue (point A), which is approximately 120 feet northwest of Walton Avenue where it intersects with Cramer and runs south along the east property line of 625 Boonesboro, then south and west, following that property line to the rear property line of the Bell Court East properties, following this line south to the north property line of 630 Sayre Avenue, then east, south and west with the property line to the east side of Sayre Avenue, following Sayre Avenue to the north line of 634 Sayre Avenue, going east, south and west following that line around the property and back to Sayre Avenue, south across Sayre to the east property line of 631 East Main Street, running south with that line to the southeast corner of the property (point B), then proceeding west along the front property lines of the properties on the north side of Main Street (encompassing 497-631 E. Main) to the southwest corner of 497 East Main Street (point C), then north to the south property line of Clay Villa (121 Forest Avenue) following that property line west, then north, then east to the west property line of 133 Forest Avenue and following that line north along the rear property lines of 137 and 141 Forest and across Skain Avenue, continuing north following the rear lines of 147-159 Forest Avenue, then west, north, and east, following the property line of 163 Forest, then north following the rear property line of 167 Forest Avenue, then east and north following the rear line of 173 Forest, then north across Russell Avenue where it intersects with Indiana Avenue and then north, northeast, following the west and north lines of 505 and 509 Russell Avenue, then north, northeast following the rear property lines of the lots on the west side of Delmar Avenue to the rear property lines (point D) of the houses on the north side of Boonesboro, following this line east to the point of beginning.



THE BELL PLACE LAND CO. - ADDITION
 SCALE 100' = 1"

NOV 3 1980

I, [Name], County Clerk, do hereby certify that the foregoing Plat of Bell Place...
 this 3 day of [Month], 1906, produced to me in [Location].

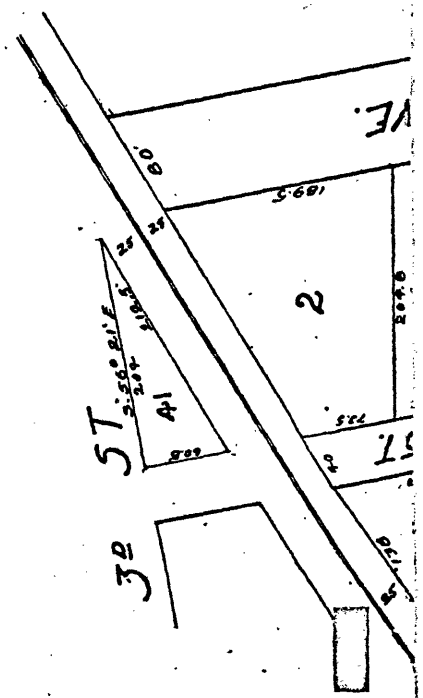
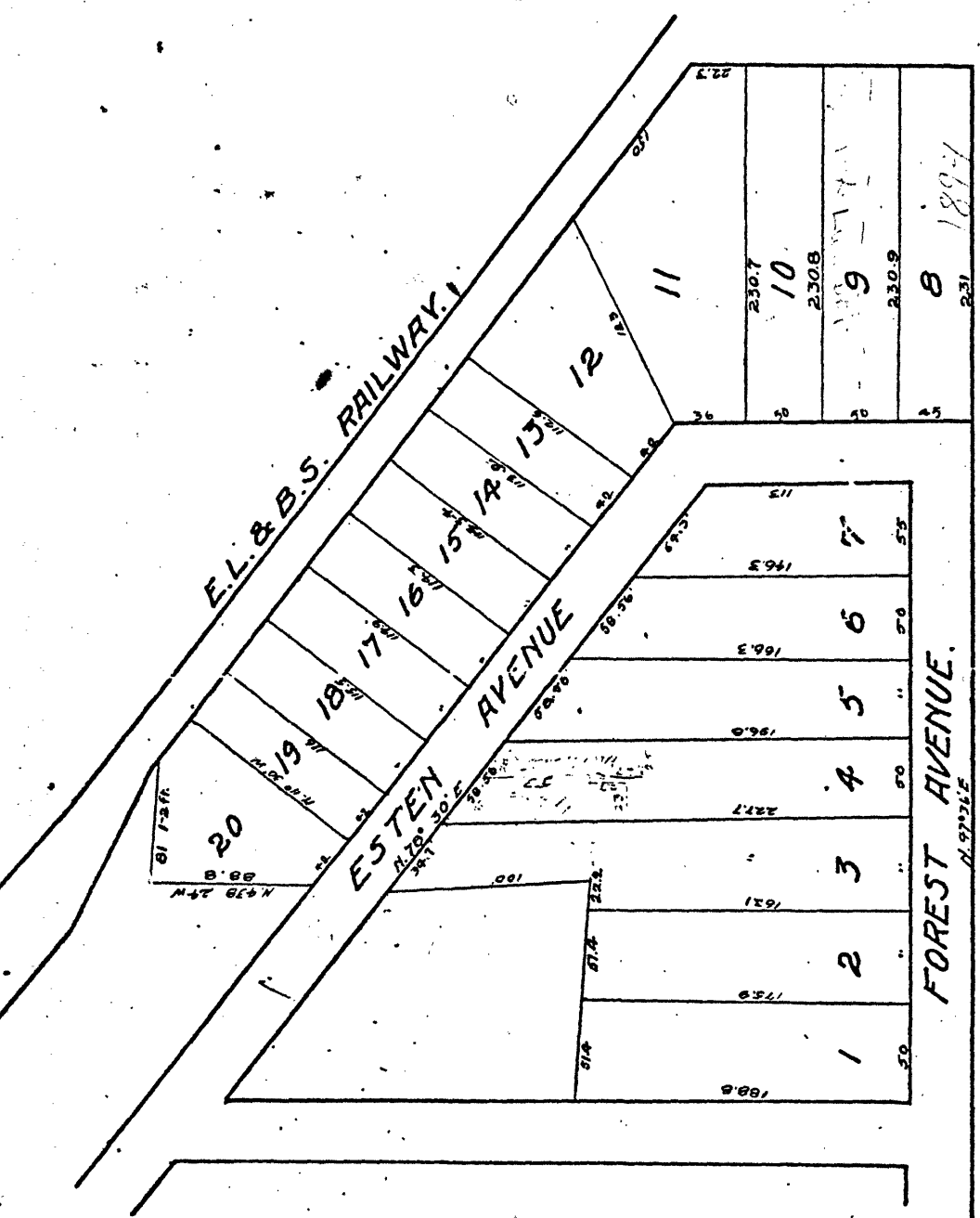
Bell Court Neighborhood Historic District
Lexington
Fayette Co.
Kentucky

The Bell Place Land Company Addition plat

Scale: unknown
Date: 1906

MAP #1

DEC 8 1980



KELLERS ADDITION
 TO THE
 CITY OF
 LEXINGTON 1887
 KY.

NOV 3 1880

Bell Court Neighborhood Historic District
Lexington
Fayette Co.
Kentucky

DEC 8 1980

Kellers Addition to the City of Lexington, Ky. plat

Scale: unknown
Date: 1897

MAP # 2



BELL COURT HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD DISTRICT
 (To be submitted to Kentucky Review Board, Sept., 1980)

NOV 3 1980

Bell Court Neighborhood Historic District
Lexington
Fayette
Kentucky

Urban Co. Planning Commission Map
Fayette County

DEC 8 1980

Scale: 1 " = 200'

Date: 1976

District boundary shown in heavy black dotted line.

MAP # 3

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Bell Court Neighborhood Historic District Fayette County, KENTUCKY

APPROVAL OF NAME CHANGE TO:

Bell Place Historic District

Keeper _____