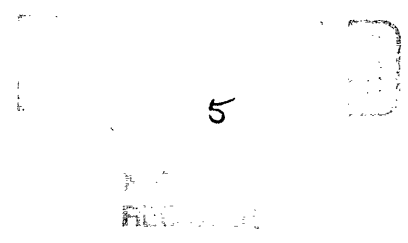


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM



1. Name of Property

historic name: Dogwood Hill

other name/site number: William G. Simpson House (JF-772)

2. Location

street & number: 7001 U.S. Highway 42

not for publication:N.A.

city/town: Lyndon

vicinity: X

state: KY county: Jefferson

code: 111

zip code: 40222

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: District

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing
2	buildings
1	sites
	1 structures
	objects
3	1 Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: Louisville and Jefferson County, Kentucky Multiple Property Listing

JAN 15 1988

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets      does not meet the National Register Criteria.      See continuation sheet.

David L. Morgan, Executive Director and State Historic Preservation Officer

Dec 30, 1992

David L. Morgan (handwritten signature)

Signature of certifying official

Date

Kentucky Heritage Council, the State Historic Preservation Office

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property      meets      does not meet the National Register criteria.      See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register See continuation sheet.
determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
determined not eligible for the National Register
removed from the National Register
other (explain):

Patrick Andrews (handwritten signature)

2/26/93 (handwritten date)

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic: DOMESTIC

Sub: Single dwelling; secondary structure

LANDSCAPE

Garden; natural features; forest; unoccupied land

Current : DOMESTIC

Sub: All historic functions

LANDSCAPE

continue as current functions

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 7. Description
 

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## Architectural Classification:

Colonial Revival

Other Description: N.A.

Materials: foundation	CONCRETE	roof	STONE/slate
walls	BRICK	other	WOOD, METAL/iron
			STONE/marble

 Describe present and historic physical appearance.   X   See continuation sheet.

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 8. Statement of Significance
 

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 Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: Local.

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : N.A.

 Areas of Significance: LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE  
 ARCHITECTURE

Period(s) of Significance: 1941 - 1942

Significant Dates : 1942

Significant Person(s): N.A.

Cultural Affiliation: N.A.

 Architect/Builder: Ward, Ossian P., architect  
 Kenney, Henry Fletcher, landscape architect

 State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.  
  X   See continuation sheet.

## =====

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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 See continuation sheet.

## Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

## Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: \_\_\_\_\_

## =====

## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property: 38 acres

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing      Zone Easting Northing

A	16	620060	4241620	B	16	620120	4241160
C	16	620060	4240980	D	16	619750	4241080
E	16	619820	4241500				

\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description:  See continuation sheet.

The nominated property consists of the entire property historically and presently associated with the house. This property is identified as Lot 16 of Block W-7 in the 1st County District of Jefferson County. See Section 10, Continuation Sheet 17 for a Verbal Boundary Description.

Boundary Justification:  See continuation sheet.

The boundary is justified in Section 7, Continuation Sheet 9.

## =====

## 11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Carolyn Brooks, Historic Preservation Consultant

Organization: N.A.

Date: June 20, 1992

Street &amp; Number: 1288 Bassett Avenue

Telephone: 502 456-2397

City or Town: Louisville

State: KY ZIP: 40204

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Dogwood Hill, Jefferson Co., Ky. Page 1

DESCRIPTION

Dogwood Hill (JF-772) consists of nearly forty acres of hilly land located between U.S. Highway 42 and River Road in eastern Jefferson County, Kentucky. The property is located on the west side of Highway 42 approximately one-half mile south of Wolf Pen Branch Road and just northeast of Woodstone Way. Dogwood Hill is an extensively landscaped country estate developed in 1941 and completed in early 1942. It consists of a two-story brick Colonial Revival style main house and an attached garage that are placed in a formal landscaped setting which is in turn surrounded by extensive informally landscaped grounds. These consist of a large fenced pasture at the south corner of the property and a deep woods to the north and east which occupies the steeply sloping land at the edges of the property where it runs down to Little Goose Creek. A nearly quarter-mile-long tree-lined curving drive leads from Highway 42 to the main house where it terminates in a circle in front of the house. Just before the circle, a secondary drive leads off to the west to an historic stable located in the low land to the west of the house. In the northwest corner of the pasture is a small historic wood-framed shed. On the steeply sloping hillside between the stable and the house are three small wood-framed outbuildings two of which originally served as kennels for the dogs the original owners bred. These are connected by a winding concrete path which terminates at the stable after crossing over a steep gully on a historic reinforced concrete bridge. The property was originally developed as a designed historic landscape. The main house, the outbuildings and the landscaping are all extremely intact with almost no changes made to them since 1942. The contributing resources on the property, which is being nominated as a district, consists of two buildings, the main house and the stable, and one site. The entire property, a designed historic landscape, has been counted as a site. The various historic structures and smaller landscaped areas on the property such as the entrance gates, stone walls, board fences, roadways, walks, formal garden, pasture, and woods that make up the designed historic landscape have not been individually counted. There is only one noncontributing structure on the property, a swimming pool that was built behind the main house in 1985.

Design Landscape Features

Dogwood Hill features a designed historic landscape created by Henry Fletcher Kenney, a Cincinnati landscape architect. The landscape is very much in the tradition of Frederick Law Olmsted, the single most important figure in the establishment of the tenets

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of late 19th and early 20th century landscape design. Dogwood Hill exemplifies the sense of seclusion and the enhancement of the natural landscape that are the key features of the country estate as defined by Olmsted.

Outlying Areas

The house and its immediate somewhat formal surroundings are completely hidden from U.S. Highway 42, the busy road from which access to the property is provided. An historic gate at U.S. 42 marks the entrance to the property. This consists of massive limestone piers capped with stone urns and flanked on their outer sides by a stone wall which in turn connects with a board fence that follows the property line along Highway 42 (Photo 1). Also historic is a delicate iron sign hanging from one pier that announces the property's historic name, "Dogwood Hill" and the gates themselves, constructed of wide boards in an "X" configuration with delicate iron spandrels above. From this entrance gate the black-topped drive begins a slow gently curved ascent to the house, flanked by a continuous bed of iris with a low stone retaining wall behind it on the north side and a high grass bank planted with a rows of maple and dogwood trees on the south side (Photo 2). As the driveway curves up and around, the house suddenly becomes visible in the distance, framed by maples that by this point are located to either side of the drive. This element of surprise in the landscape is yet another feature of many of Olmsted's residential landscapes.

A gently rolling fifteen-acre meadow, bounded by a board fence around much of its periphery, is situated in the south corner of the property beyond the grassed bank along the drive (Photo 4). The fence, now stained black, is a replacement of the original white-painted board fence. The field, which has been home to several horses since the property was developed, is studded with an occasional large shade tree. A small open shed-roofed wood-framed shed is located near the west corner of the field. At the top end of the meadow, nearest the house, a secondary drive, also flanked by a single row of maples, breaks off from the main drive and winds down into a low area of the property where a historic stable is located (Photo 6). An iron gate separates the stable yard, enclosed by a board fence, from the drive. A low stone retaining wall is located on the west side of the stable yard.

The land falls off steeply to the north and east of the house and along the north side of the main drive. This heavily wooded area, which drops down to the property's boundary along Little Goose Creek, provides visual closure for the more formally landscaped area around the house. A path down through the woods

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provides a secluded area for walking and contemplating the natural surroundings.

Domestic Area

Situated at the highest point on the property is the main house, surrounded by a more formally landscaped area. The grounds to the front and sides of the house are grassed and studded with maples and dogwoods that frame the house and accentuate various sight lines around the property. The placement of the majority of these trees follow Kenney's landscape plans. To the front of the house where the driveway terminates in a circular loop the ground is flat (Photo 3). To the sides and rear where it quickly begins to slope off it is gently terraced.

Separating and screening the main part of the house from the service wing containing the kitchen and the garage is a high brick wall that comes out at a perpendicular from the house, makes a concave curve at the corner and turns at a right angle before descending to become a low wall across the parking area at the front of the garage (See Plan of Domestic Area, Figure 2). Leading from the circular driveway to the main entrance and parallel to this wall is a brick path, laid in a herringbone design.

Existing drawings for the landscaping program suggest that nearly all the present plantings are original or in-kind replacements [General Landscape Plan for Mr. and Mrs. W.G. Simpson, n.d.; Planting Plan Elevation, n.d., Figure 3; Partial Planting Plan, n.d., Figure 4]. Only the Southern magnolia varies from the plans which called for a fruit tree in this location. Landscaping along the front facade of the house consists of curving brick-edged beds filled with ivy, euonymus, and other ground covers and climbing vines that have been trained to creep up the brick walls of the house. Large specimens of boxwood flank the entrance portico. A flowering crab apple nestles in the corner between the main house and the north wing. An espaliered fruit tree highlights the blank front wall of this wing. Making a bold statement at the corner of the main house and the high brick wall is a very large Southern magnolia that towers over the house. Running along at the foot of the brick wall is a bed of ferns. A mature maple fits perfectly into the concave hollow at the outer corner of the brick wall.

Foundation plantings along the east side are similar to the front with lilac, a native azalea and other shrubs mixed in with ground covers, hostas, and fern. A large and mature dogwood is located at the north corner of the house. On the west side, a low brick wall forms the far side of the car park in front of the

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garage. Fronting this wall are a row of dogwoods and a large bed of lilies.

To the rear of the house is the most formally landscaped area. The house opens out onto a semi-circular brick terrace (Photo 14) which was designed by the architect as part of the original plan of the house [Plan 1A, December 2, 1941, "Plot Plan, Details of Paving"]. Three steps around the periphery lead down to a small grassed area flanked by beds of ground covers, wild flowers and ferns from which rise two carefully pruned maple trees. These maples provide strong visual focuses for the views outward from the house. An additional focus is a very large dogwood tree planted on a direct line with the center of the house at some distance from the terrace. Between the small central lawn and the dogwood is located a swimming pool, built in 1985. This is the only major non-historic element in the entire forty-acre landscape. The kidney-shaped pool, surrounded by a slate patio, has been very sensitively inserted in the landscape so as to provide the least visual intrusion to the historic surroundings. Set on a terrace below the level of the main terrace and gardens and accessed by two sets of curving steps, it is not visible from the first floor of the house (Photo 15).

At the west corner of the house, accessed by a brick path that leads from the terrace past one of the large maple trees, is a slightly sunken formal garden in the shape of a rectangle with one semi-circular end (Photo 10). Brick steps lead down into the small garden which is edged along its outer perimeter with a box hedge. Perennial beds fill the garden, and a small rectangular grassed area is located at the center. The sculpture at the center of this garden and at other places in the rear landscape has been added by the present owner of the house.

Completing the landscaping on the west are the sloping lawns that run down to the wooded ravine separating the stable and its yard from the main house (Photo 5). To the southwest, scattered across the lawn are a grouping of fruit trees that are indicated on the original landscaping plans. The present owner has planted a small grove of hollies in this same general area. On the steep hill between the house and the stable is a fieldstone and concrete path that winds down between the historic dog kennels and a potting shed to a reinforced concrete bridge that crosses a dry stream bed in a ravine (Photo 8). To the north of this path the hill has been terraced and rows of maple trees mark the edge of each terrace. On the lowest and flattest terrace a vegetable garden was originally located, but this area at present is grassed over.



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The landscaping adheres quite closely to that indicated on "A General Landscape Plan for Mr. and Mrs. W.G. Simpson." This undated plan appears to be the master plan for the grounds immediately surrounding the house. Only a few changes can be observed. The formal garden, although located in the same place as it is on the plan has a slightly different exterior configuration and alignment of flower beds. One significant difference is located on the east side of the house where on Kenney's plan some rather elaborate terracing and an enclosed garden with "features," (sculptures or fountains?) at both ends was indicated. This area was not developed as planned. Today it consists of two grassed terraces highlighted by a row of four maple trees on the lower terrace that mark the division between the landscaped grounds around the house and the heavily wooded area beyond.

Main House

The W.G. Simpson House at Dogwood Hill is a two-story brick Colonial Revival residence begun in 1941 and completed early in 1942. The house consists of a five-bay main block flanked by a projecting one-story east wing and a small lateral one-story west wing attached to a projecting one-and-one-half story garage. Symmetrical screened porches are located at the rear behind each wing. The poured concrete foundation, apparent in the basement, is not visible on the outside. Walls are veneered with brick laid in running bond. An octagonal entrance portico is centrally located. Windows range from an eight-over-twelve light double-hung sash window on the side of the east wing, to nine-over-six sash on the first floor front and six-over-six sash on the second floor front and rear. They are set in very simple wood surrounds with slightly projecting round-edged sills. All have louvered exterior shutters. The gable roof has a pedimented cross gable that spans three quarters of the front facade. Its stuccoed pediment area is highlighted by a semi-circular fanlight, a replacement of a smaller original. The roof of the entire house is slate. Gutters are copper with copper down spouts. One very large brick end chimney with two brick bands near its top rises up on the east side of house between the main two-story block and the west wing.

Both the front and rear facades are detailed with a wood cornice that runs under the eaves and is detailed with a repeating pointed-arched motif that terminates at the foot of each arch with a trefoil design. Above this is a delicate band of reeded molding. The reeded molding is repeated in the pedimented area where it outlines all three sides, highlighting the triangular form.

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The focal point of the front facade is the entrance portico, an unusual semi-octagonal structure with a gently sloping pyramidal roof (Photo 12). The portico is very close in form and detailing to the main entrance at Gunston Hall in Fairfax County, Virginia dating to the late 1750s (See Figure 7). At Dogwood Hill this structure has round-arched openings set between fluted pilasters and with a full entablature above. This entablature has a narrow plain architrave, a frieze detailed with classically-inspired triglyphs, and a cornice that repeats the arched motif from the cornice of the house. Simple railings with waist-high balusters enclose the lower half of each arch. The floor is laid with diagonally set white marble squares. The Georgian style front entrance has a six-panel door set between fluted pilasters and topped by a semi-circular fanlight detailed with delicate leading. Within the area of the portico the brick walls of the house are painted white, further drawing one's eye to this area.

The rear facade lacks the pedimented cross gable of the front facade but is clearly treated as a principal facade (Photo 14). It has a central entrance flanked by large gently bowed windows, each with 20 stationary lights flanked by narrow casement windows with four lights. A wood band at the top of each window repeats the arched motif of the cornice in flatter relief. The central six-panel door is flanked by narrow sidelights detailed with the same delicate leading as the front door. Directly above this door are French doors leading onto a small iron balcony with a central circular motif. Second floor windows on this facade are six-over-six double-hung sash. The rear entrance opens out onto a semi-circular brick terrace discussed in the landscaping section. It is bordered by two screened porches with terra-cotta tile floors and corner lattice work that rests on reeded wood panels. One of the few changes made to the house is located on these porches. Victorian-styled metal-framed skylights in the shape of ogee arches have been added to each roof by the present owner.

The garage wing of the house has a three-quarter-width shed-roofed dormer across the rear with three shuttered, six-over-six double-hung sash windows. Two small gable-roofed dormers are located on the front facade. All three dormers are finished with beaded weatherboards. The three-bay garage has multi-paneled doors.

The interior is best described as a modified double-pile central passage plan (See First Floor Plan, Figure 5). In the main block the central hall (Photo 16) is flanked on the east by a large living room (Photo 17) that occupies the full depth of the house except for a corridor, along the front wall, that leads to a den,

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guest bedroom and bath in the east wing. To the west side, the principal room is the dining room (Photo 19) with the front area taken up with a half bath, closets, and a short corridor leading to the pantry (now a breakfast room). The kitchen is located in the west wing. A long corridor to the west of the kitchen provides access to the garage, the room above the garage, and the basement through interior doors, and to the front parking area and the rear gardens through exterior doors.

Upstairs the house has a central hall (See Second Floor Plan, Figure 6). To the east, above the living room, is a master bedroom suite with a dressing room and two adjoining bathrooms. On the west side, above the dining room, are two smaller bedrooms with a central bathroom that opens into both. At the front of the house is a small room, now a tiny bedroom, which was designated as a linen closet on the original plan. An adjacent luggage storage room has been adapted to hold a spiral staircase that leads to the now finished attic. The space over the garage which originally contained a finished room for a maid, a small bathroom, and an unfinished storage area is now one large finished bedroom with bath that is used by one of the owner's children.

A full basement is located under the house. The west end, accessed from the service hall west of the kitchen, is a large open room that historically and presently has served as a laundry. A large storage area, and a half-bath open off this area. A corridor along the rear wall leads to a furnace room in the north corner. Opening off this corridor and also accessed from a staircase under the main stairs is a finished L-shaped recreation room original to the house.

Detailing in the house is of the same fine quality as outside. Walls throughout are plastered, with a chair rail located in the downstairs hall and dining room. Floors downstairs are wide, random-width oak boards except in the kitchen and pantry which have non-historic maple floors. The central halls, both upstairs and down, the living room, and the dining room all have a crown molding below which runs a frieze of the same reeded molding found on the exterior cornice. Interior doors have six panels. Window and door surrounds have molded trim. The den (Photo 18) is completely paneled in cherry with original built-in bookshelves and a dentil molding at the ceiling. Both the den and the living room have fireplaces with finely detailed mantels. The one in the den, fabricated of cherry like the rest of the room and with a black marble surround and hearth, is modeled after a simple Georgian mantel. The white-painted mantel in the living room employs typically Georgian curves at the edges of the breast plate, but the

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shelf is supported by very unusual stylized brackets. It too has a black marble surround and hearth. The main half-turn staircase is finely crafted with delicate turned balusters and a cherry hand rail. Delicate vine-like detailing is located in each tread end. An arched molding similar to the one on the outside above the rear bowed windows runs along the an open balcony on the second floor.

Upstairs and in the guest bedroom downstairs the detailing is less elaborate. Rooms are trimmed with a narrow crown molding. Floors upstairs are two-inch hardwood. Door and window surrounds are simpler than below. Closets and storage areas both upstairs and down are extensive. The bathrooms in the master suite and off the downstairs guest room still have their original tile finishes, pink upstairs and white with a delicate blue band with a wave pattern downstairs.

The recreation room in the basement is finished with cherry wainscoting in the main area and with floor-to-ceiling wide vertical boards of cherry that alternate with narrow reeded boards in the corner of the "L" where a bar was originally located. This solid cherry bar is now in storage. The remainder of the basement has unfinished poured concrete walls.

Outbuildings

The largest and most significant of the outbuildings is the stable (Photo 7). This nearly square wood-framed building has a gable roof with central cross gables on both the front and rear facades. A small cupola topped with a weather vane is centrally located atop the asphalt roof. The building has a poured concrete foundation and is sheathed with shiplap siding. Vertical boards with scalloped lower edges adorn the cross gables. Small openings in each indicate the earlier presence of dove cotes. Windows have six lights. The building is entered through a central arch with sliding doors. Additional small doors open from each horse stall directly to the outside. The central passage through the stable has a dirt floor and tongue-and-groove board ceiling. Four chambers, two on each side of the passage, include three stalls and a tack room. Upstairs is a hay loft. All of the interior wood finishes are original.

Located near the stable along the back wall of the pasture, is an original rectangular shed-roofed structure which is open along most of one side. Used as a place to store hay and other supplies for the horses, it is sheathed with board-and-batten siding and has a galvanized metal roof. The wooden framework of the approximately

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7' by 20' building sits on poured concrete pads.

Located on the steep hill between the stable and the main house are three small wood-framed gable-roofed outbuildings (Photo 8). These are all original to the property. To the north of the path that connects them with the house and the stable are a kennel and a potting shed (Photo 9). The approximately 6' by 8' kennel has a poured concrete foundation, shiplap siding and a galvanized metal roof. A half-glazed door as well as a low lift-up flap for the dogs provide access to the building. The poured concrete footing of a large dog run remains outside. The metal chain link fence has been removed.

A smaller and lower 4' by 6' kennel still surrounded by its original chain link fence is located to the south of the path. It is finished with board-and-batten siding and a galvanized metal roof.

The potting shed, located just uphill from the larger kennel, is an 8' by 10' building with a historic concrete block foundation, weatherboard siding, and one-over-one sash windows.

Boundary Justification

The entire thirty-eight acre property historically and presently associated with the house is included with the nomination. The grounds, including an approximately fifteen acre field, surrounding wooded land, and the formally landscaped grounds immediately around the house, were originally conceived of as various elements in a designed historic landscape. This landscape which retains a very high degree of integrity has been documented as significant in terms of landscape architecture.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Dogwood Hill (JF-772) has been evaluated to be an important late example of the "country estate" property type defined in the Historic Context: **Suburban Development in Louisville and Jefferson County, 1868 - 1940**. This context was developed as part of the Louisville and Jefferson County, Kentucky, Multiple Property Listing prepared in 1988. Dogwood Hill is significant in terms of National Register Criterion C in the areas of Landscape Architecture and Architecture. In terms of landscape architecture it is important as a country estate with a very intact, documented example of a designed historic landscape in the Olmsted tradition. Many of Olmsted's design principles for the development of a country estate such as a sense of seclusion, the enhancement of the natural landscape, and the element of surprise are amply evident at Dogwood Hill. Some of the original landscaping plans, designed by prominent Cincinnati landscape architect, Henry Fletcher Kenney (1897 - 1989), are extant and document the degree to which the present grounds represent the original design for the property. In terms of architecture the property is significant for its main house, a carefully detailed Colonial Revival residence designed by Ossian P. Ward (1875 - 1966) that illustrates the long-lived popularity of this style for the houses of Jefferson County's elite. The house provides an excellent example of the Colonial Revival style as interpreted at the very end of its long period of popularity before World War II. The close design reference in the semi-octagonal front portico to a very similarly designed one at Gunston Hall, an important late 1850s house in Fairfax County, Virginia, is of particular value in strengthening the connection of the design with colonial antecedents.

Dogwood Hill, begun in August, 1941 before the December Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and finished in the months after the war started, is part of a small late 1930s building boom that documents Louisville's slow recovery from the Depression. During this time, some construction of substantial houses for Jefferson County's upper middle class was going on in neighborhoods such as Indian Hills, Cherokee Gardens, and the Upland Road area [Burianek, Bridget Osbourne. "Stratton Owen Hammon, Georgian Revival Architect: A Catalogue of His Works," 1991]. One other very comparable property, Fincastle, was built near Dogwood Hill in 1936. This is the only other country estate from this time period that has been documented in Jefferson County, although a few other very large houses such as the William Dabney House, designed in 1938 by Frederick Morgan, were also built during this period.

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The 1941-1942 date of Dogwood Hill is significant for documenting the existence of the country estate as a property type and the Colonial Revival style as a correct residential style for the wealthy right up to the beginning of World War II. Its late date helps to justify the extension of the Period of Significance for the Suburban Development in Louisville and Jefferson County Historic Context from 1940 to 1942. In the Louisville and Jefferson County Multiple Property Listing as written in 1988 it states: "...1940, roughly coincident with the change in suburban development due to the initiation of World War II and with the 50-year boundary of the MPL, was chosen as the terminating date." [Section E, page 6] A strong argument can be made that the real end of the types of suburban development discussed in the document did not come until the United States entered World War II in December, 1941 and nearly all non war-related building in the country came to a halt. Even then, as Dogwood Hill illustrates, a few projects initiated before the outbreak of war were carried to completion in 1942. The Period of Significance for the property is the years 1941 and 1942 during which the house and the grounds were developed.

Dogwood Hill is an excellent highly intact example of the Country Estate property type as defined in the Louisville and Jefferson County Multiple Property Listing. It contains the two essential elements of a country estate: a primary residence and a designed historic landscape. At Dogwood Hill a small formal garden, indicated as an optional element in the definition of the property type, is also present. Dogwood Hill resembles many of the other country estates identified in Jefferson County in a number of ways. It is located in the East End of the county near a concentration of similar properties along River Road and Wolf Pen Branch Road. It has the same undulating topography as many of the others and the same carefully sited house located atop the property's highest point of land. Like many of the others it is secluded from public roadways. It has a collection of outbuildings that served to enhance the "country estate" concept. Its first owner, William G. Simpson, a prominent Louisville businessman, was typical of the people who were creating Jefferson County's country estates in the early 20th century.

One important distinction between Dogwood Hill and most of the earlier examples of the country estate is the presence of a garage attached to the house and designed as an integral part of the main residence. This feature documents the ever increasing importance of the automobile in 20th century daily life as well as a nod to convenience. Beginning in the 1930s, a small number of houses were designed with an integral garage, usually for one car. At Dogwood

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Jefferson County, Ky.

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Hill the attached three-bay garage indicates the importance of cars to the family but also suggests that a live-in chauffeur was no longer part of a typical country estate household. It was more convenient for the family members who frequently served as their own drivers to access the garage directly from the house without having to walk to a separate building.

The absence of a chauffeur's quarters at Dogwood Hill correlates with one other noticeable distinction between Dogwood Hill and the many country estates that had been built in Jefferson County little more than ten years before it. The ensuing Depression appears to have had a strong affect on the overall scale of the residence, which here and in the other finer houses in Jefferson County built after the Depression are noticeably downsized. After the Depression people had become more careful about unnecessary extravagance and were far less ostentatious.

Historical Background

Dogwood Hill was built and landscaped for William G. Simpson and his wife, Stella, who purchased the property in November, 1940. Previous to this the land appears to have been farmland. A survey of the property prepared in 1939 suggests that there were three structures on the land. Whether these were houses or agricultural buildings is unclear.

William Simpson (1897 - 1956) was an extremely successful businessman and civic leader in Louisville who made his money while developing the C.T. Dearing Company, a Louisville firm, into the largest printing company in the South. In 1941, the same year he began construction on his new home, he was made President of C.T. Dearing Company after serving for twenty years as vice president and general manager. About 1944, he sold the company to Fawcett Publishing Company of New York City and it continued as Fawcett-Dearing Printing Company for many years. At the time of his death Simpson was also Chairman of the Jefferson County Police Merit Board and President of Norton Memorial Infirmary's Board of Trustees where he had been involved since 1942 ["Simpson, 59, Printing Firm President, Dies," The Courier-Journal, June 1, 1956, Section A, p. 1, col. 3].

In 1957, following Simpson's death, the property was sold to Robert W. Greene, Jr. and his wife, Jennie. The present owner, Laura Lee Brown, purchased Dogwood Hill in 1971.

Ossian P. Ward (1875 - 1966), Simpson's choice for architect of his house, had, in 1941, recently completed a whole block of industrial buildings for Simpson's company, C.T. Dearing, at



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Broadway and Eleventh Street [Interview with William Simpson, Jr., April, 1992]. Ward, a native of Louisville, was an architect and engineer who had received his training at Cornell University. City directories reveal that Ward first set up business in Louisville in 1906, advertising himself as a structural engineer. In 1913 he joined forces with W. Edwin Glossop with whom he practiced until 1918. From 1919 until 1961 he is listed on his own as an architect, for most of those years with his office located at the Washington Building on South Fourth Street. Walter Reuve, for many years his draftsman, is first listed as working for Ward in 1923.

Ward's career as an architect is not well documented, but it is clear that he was a seminal figure in the development of the profession of architecture in Kentucky. In 1930 Ward became the second architect in the state licensed to practice by the newly created State Board of Examiners and Registration of Architects. Ward became the first President of that Board [Oberwarth and Scott, 1984] beginning in 1930 and served in that capacity until 1941 [Oberwarth and Scott, p. 235]. He continued to be actively involved in the Board and in the Kentucky Chapter of the A.I.A. until his death.

Only a small portion of Ward's architectural and engineering work has been documented. A great-nephew in Louisville, Jack Ward, and William Simpson, Jr. remember him as an architect who specialized in reinforced-concrete industrial work. As well as the plant for C. T. Dearing, he is known to have designed a massive factory complex for Brown and Williamson Tobacco Company in 1928. At "An Exhibition by Architects of Louisville, Kentucky" held at the J.B. Speed Art Museum in 1931, Ward displayed photographs or renderings of the Anchorage Public School, the buildings for Brown and Williamson, and three substantial residences in various Revival styles. Only a handful of residences other than these have been documented, but it is probable that he designed a number of houses in neighborhoods such as Indian Hills, where he lived at 112 Tribal Road. It is unlikely that Simpson would have selected Ward to design his house if he did not have a reputation in the community as a designer of both fine houses and factories. Later in his career, in the 1950s, Ward designed a number of buildings at the University of Louisville including the Naval Science Building, the William S. Speed Building, and the Fred Sackett Building ["Ossian Ward, Architect, Dies at 90," The Courier-Journal, February 3, 1966, Section A, p. 8, col. 1].

The present owner of Dogwood Hill has in her possession most of the many plans (approximately 140) prepared by Ward and his draftsman, Walter Reuve, for the house. Only the final elevations for the front of the house are missing. These plans evidence an

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incredible attention to detail. The architect left absolutely no design decisions to the builder. Even items such as shelving for the linen room and attic and cabinets for the dressing room are spelled out.

Henry Fletcher Kenney (1897 - 1989), the landscape architect who designed the grounds for Dogwood Hill, was a prominent Cincinnati practitioner who, like Ward, had an extremely long career. Obituaries from the Cincinnati papers state that Kenney designed over 1,000 gardens and landscapes for private and industrial buildings and parks in his long career [Cincinnati Post, January 10, 1989, p. 20]. Among them in the late 1940s and early 1950s were gardens for the Taft Museum in Cincinnati and for Ashland, Henry Clay's Lexington, Kentucky estate.

Kenney, born near Lexington, Kentucky, attended the University of Kentucky before World War I. After the war he completed his undergraduate studies at the University of Illinois and went on to do graduate studies at Harvard. In 1929 he came to Cincinnati and set up in business as a landscape architect. During the Depression he worked on a number of WPA projects. Later he became a member of the faculty at the University of Cincinnati. Kenney designed many private gardens in the Indian Hill and Grandin Road areas of Hyde Park (a suburb of Cincinnati). He also was very active in Lexington and Louisville ["Dean of Landscapers Looks Back," Cincinnati Enquirer, October 13, 1985, page F1].

Although much of Kenney's work has been done in a non-historic time period, the fact that he has been honored with a show of his work at the Cincinnati Historical Society and a lecture on his work at an annual meeting of the American Society of Landscape Architects suggests that his work has already been evaluated to be historically significant. In the future it will be more appropriate to evaluate his work in the context of the era he was working in. At present it is enough to document one of the early examples of his work: an excellent, typical, pre-World War II landscape design fully realized in the Olmsted tradition.

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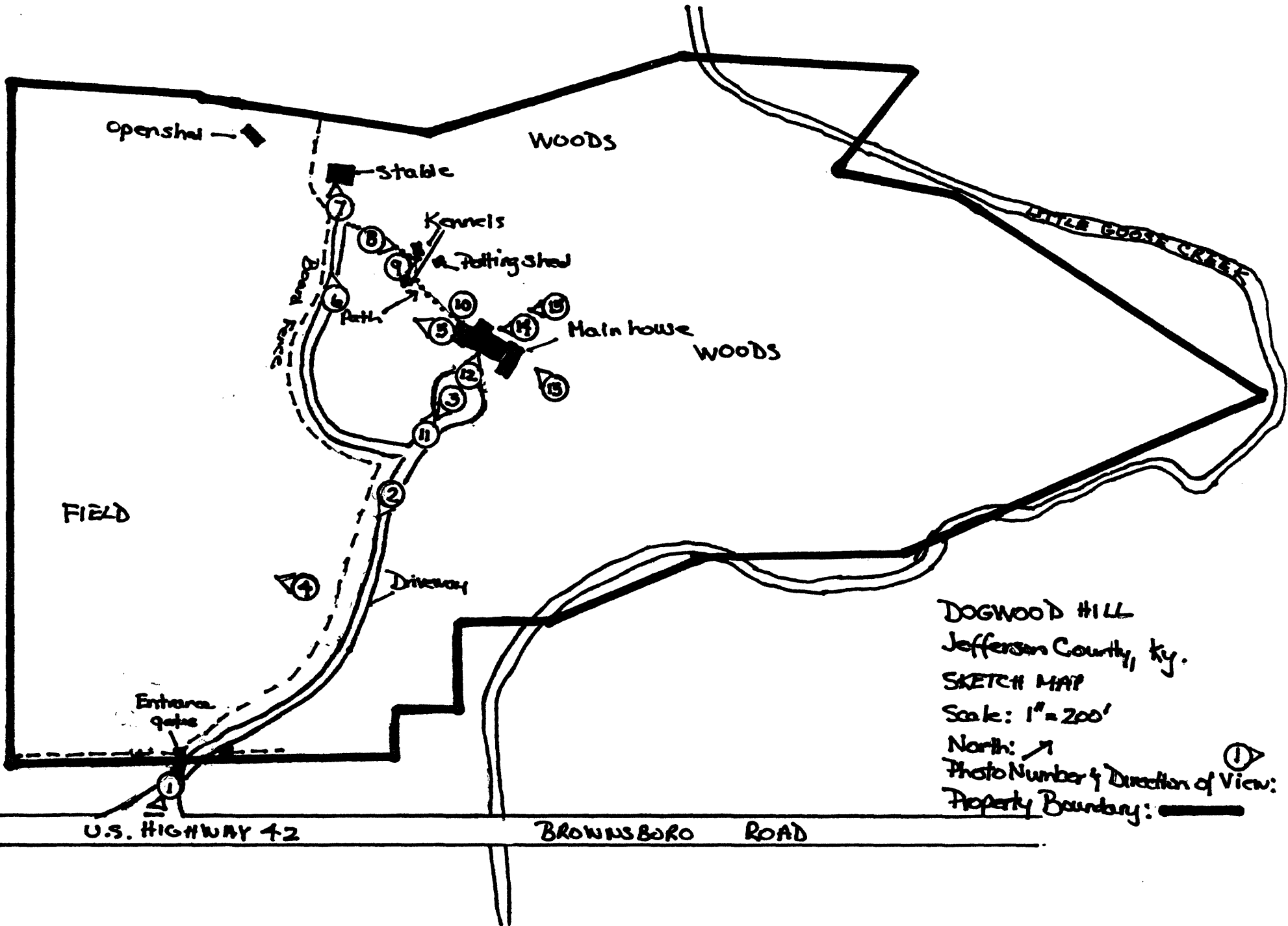
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BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Dogwood Hill is Lot 16 of Block W-7 in the First County District of Jefferson County, Kentucky. Its boundary is described as follows:

Beginning in the northeast line of Ridgeway Avenue, corner to the tract of land conveyed to William A. Burnett by Gottlieb Letterle, by deed dated August 30, 1906, and recorded in Deed Book 629, Page 256, in the office of the Clerk of the County Court of Jefferson County, Kentucky; running thence with said line of Ridgeway Avenue South 72 degrees 55 minutes East 1185.80 feet to the center line of a strip of land conveyed to the Commonwealth of Kentucky by deed Dated August 14, 1935, and recorded in Deed Book 1581, Page 267, in the office aforesaid; thence with the center line of said strip and an extension of said center line, North 14 degrees 9 minutes East 809.1 feet to a point in Gray's line; thence with Gray's line North 56 degrees 47 minutes West 266.94 feet to a stone, corner to Gray on the Eastwardly side of Little Goose Creek; thence with Gray's line North 6 degrees 15 minutes West 239.5 feet to a stone, corner to same; thence with same and crossing Little Goose Creek, North 15 degrees 9 minutes East 334 feet to a stone, corner to same; thence South 50 degrees 47 minutes West 564 feet to a stone, corner to same; thence North 8 degrees 30 minutes West, 603 feet to a stone, corner to same; thence South 31 degrees 58 minutes West 208 feet to a stone where once stood a hackberry corner to same; thence North 33 degrees 56 minutes West 39.24 feet to a corner of the tract conveyed to Edwin Sprowl and wife by deed of record in Deed Book 3332, Page 324, in the office aforesaid; thence with the Southeasterly line of said Sprowl tract, South 59 degrees 57 minutes West 237.02 feet to another corner of same, and in the Easterly line of the tact conveyed to William A. Burnett by deed aforesaid; thence with Burnett's line South 21 degrees 58 minutes West 75.64 feet to a crack in a large rock corner to Burnett; thence with Burnett's line South 2 degrees 13 minutes West 188 feet to a beech; thence South 0 degrees 47 minutes East 253.80 feet to a stone; thence South 27 degrees 23 minutes West 354.12 feet to a stone; thence South 20 degrees 30 minutes West 315.50 feet to the beginning; Excepting, However, so much of the above tract as is included in the deed to Commonwealth of Kentucky., dated August 14, 1935 and recorded in Deed Book 1581, Page 267, in the office aforesaid; Together with all appurtenant rights referred to in the deed recorded in Deed Book 1764, Page 35, in said office.

FIGURE 1



DOGWOOD HILL  
Jefferson County, Ky.

SKETCH MAP

Scale: 1" = 200'

North: ↗



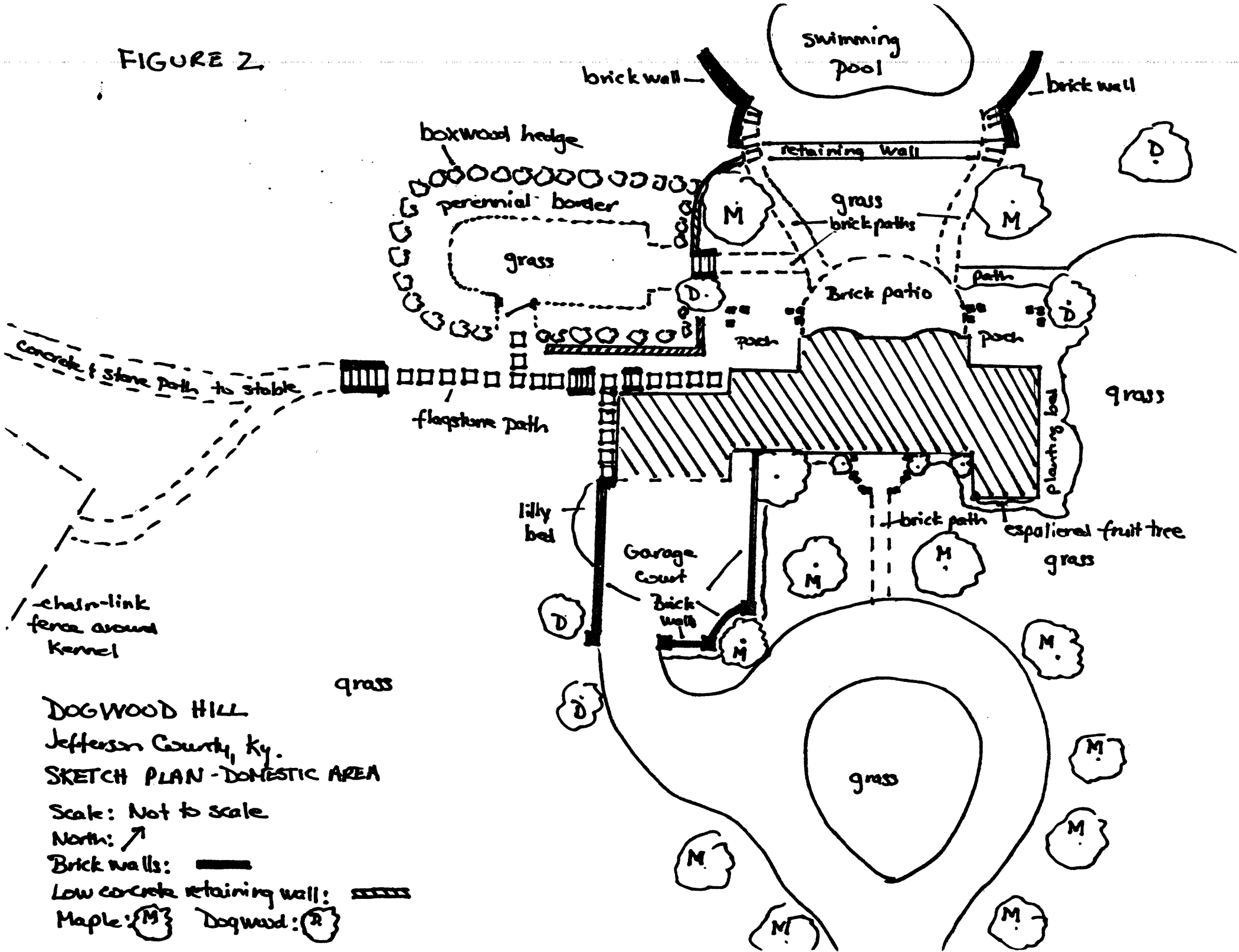
Photo Number & Direction of View:   
Property Boundary: 

FIGURE 2



DOGWOOD HILL  
 Jefferson County, Ky.  
 SKETCH PLAN - DOMESTIC AREA

Scale: Not to scale

North: ↗

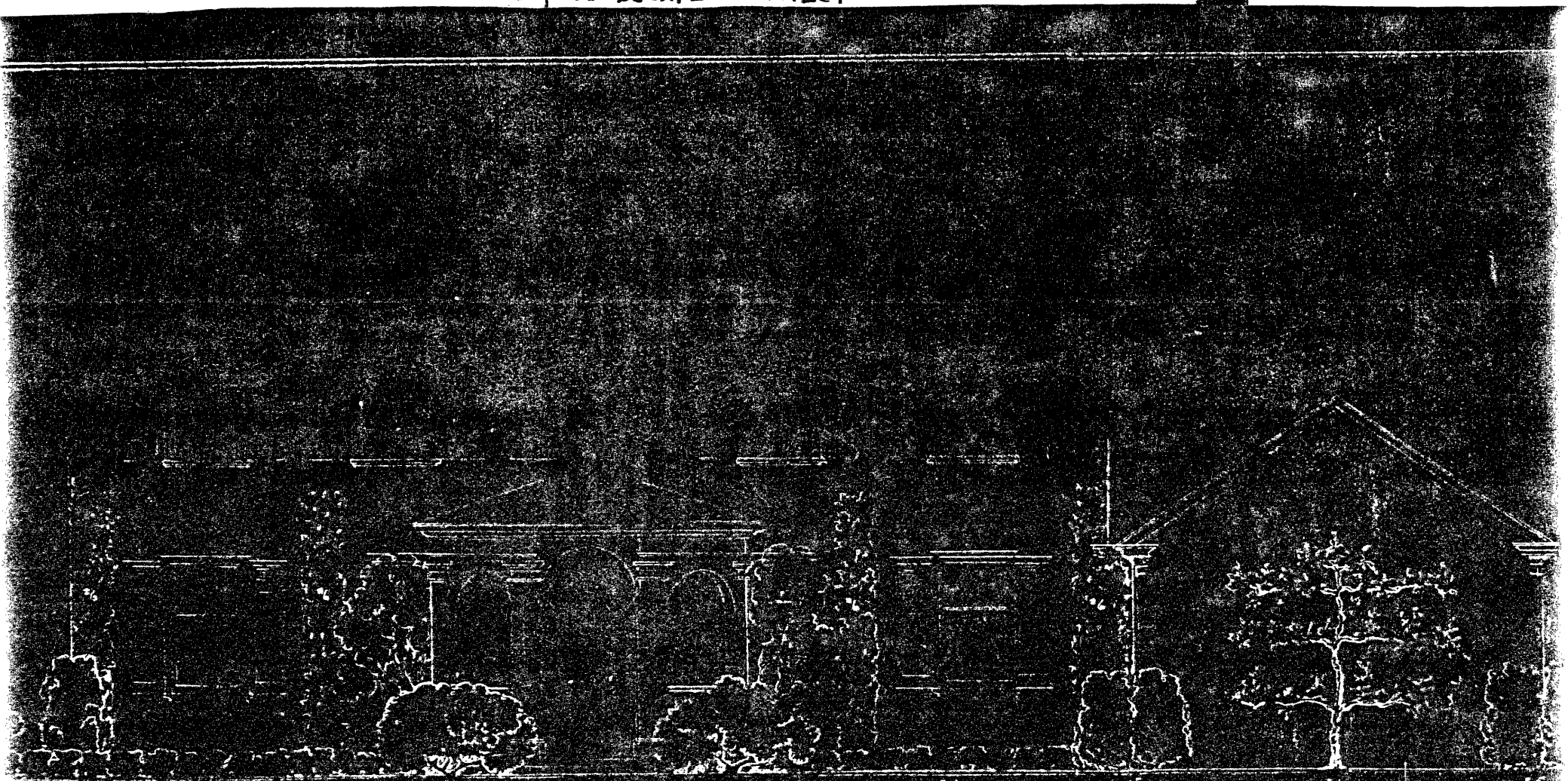
Brick walls: 

Low concrete retaining wall: 

Maple:  Dogwood: 

DOGWOOD HILL, JEFFERSON CO., KY.  
PLANTING PLAN ELEVATION, n.d.  
HENRY FLETCHER, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

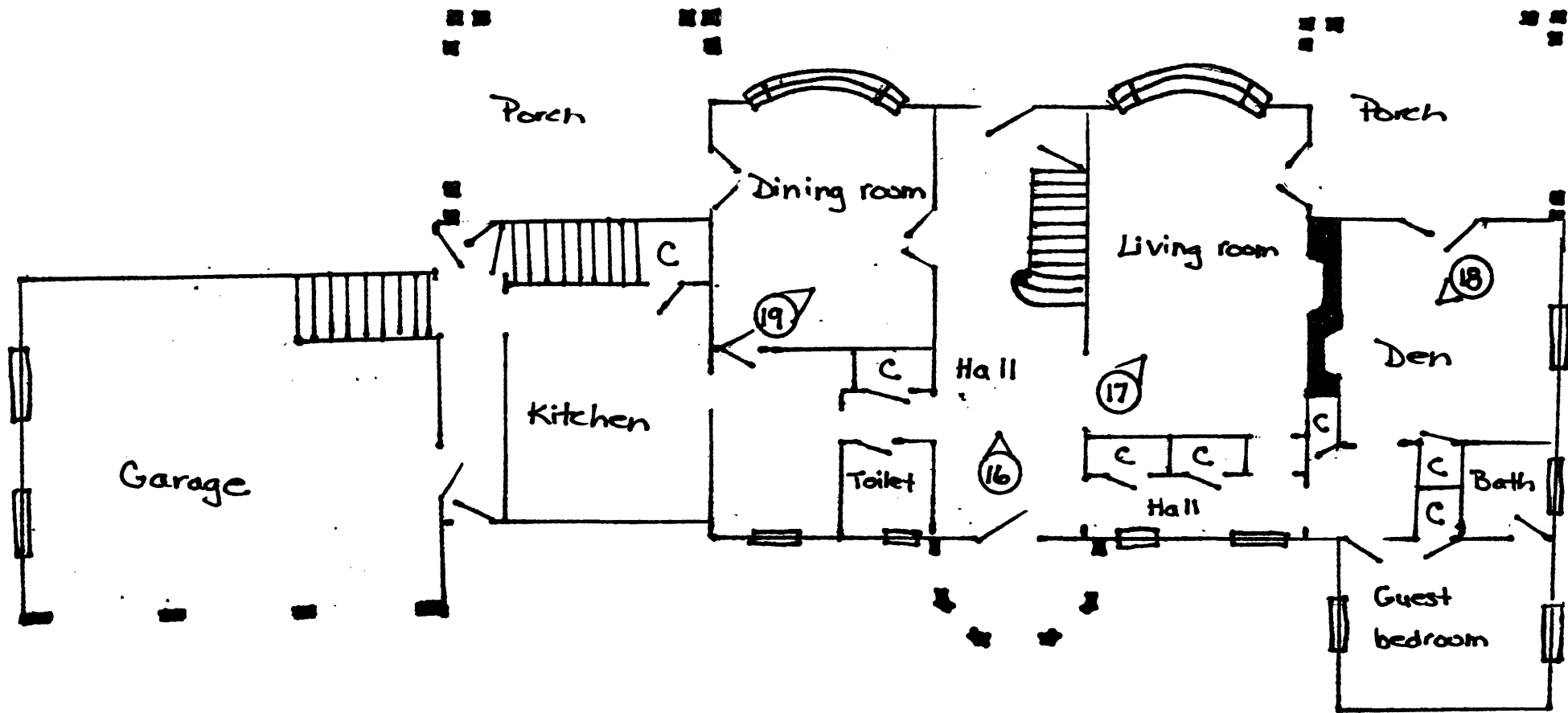
FIGURE 3.



PLANTING PLAN ELEVATION





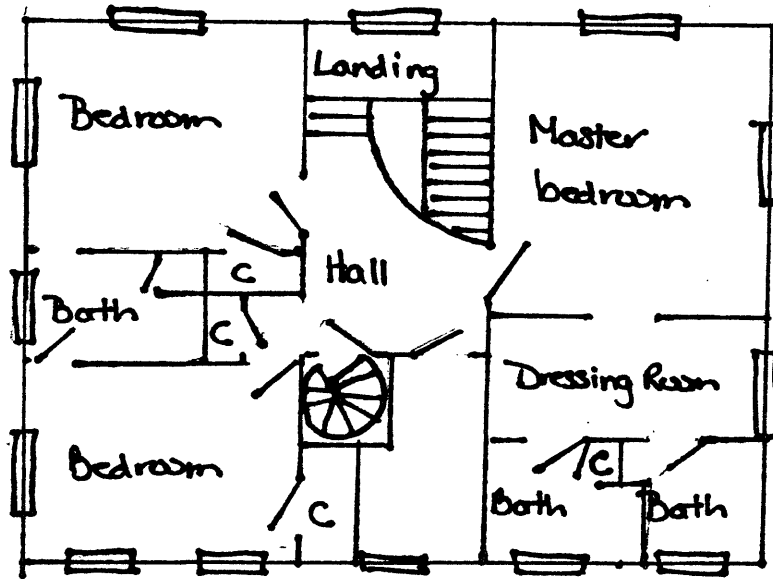
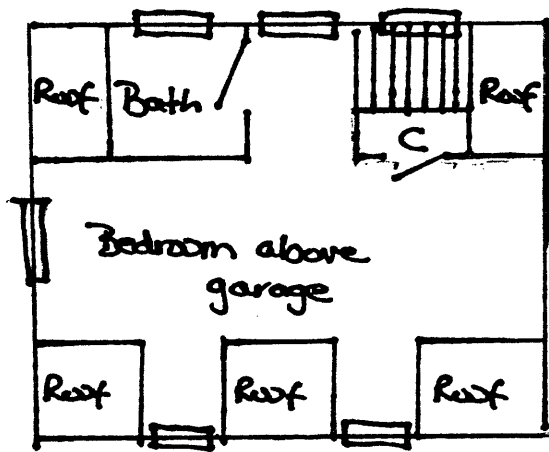


North: ↗

Photo Number &  
Direction of View: (1) →

DOGWOOD HILL  
FIRST FLOOR PLAN

FIGURE 5



North: ↗

DOGWOOD HILL  
SECOND FLOOR PLAN

FIGURE 6

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*Photo by Flournoy*

FIGURE 3. The north porch of Gunston Hall is modeled after a design of a Greek temple found on an ancient Roman coin.



*Photo by Flournoy*

FIGURE 4. Gunston Hall has the first Chinese Chippendale room in America.

FIGURE 7

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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### SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 93000043

Date Listed: 2/26/93

Dogwood Hill                      Jefferson KY  
Property Name:                      County:        State:

Louisville and Jefferson County MPS

Multiple Name \_\_\_\_\_

-----  
This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

*for* Patrick Andrews  
Signature of the Keeper

3/3/93  
Date of Action

#### Amended Items in Nomination:

The resource count was clarified through a phone call to the Kentucky SHPO. The following should be added as contributing resources: two kennels and the potting shed. The storage shed is a contributing structure. This increases the contributing resources to five contributing buildings, one contributing structure, and one contributing site. The nomination is officially amended to include this information.

#### DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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PHOTOGRAPHS

Dogwood Hill  
Jefferson County, Kentucky  
Photographer: Carolyn Brooks  
Date: April and June, 1992  
Negatives on file with Kentucky Heritage Council, Frankfort, Ky.

(The above information is the same for all 19 photographs submitted with the nomination, with the exception of the date. Photos # 1, 11, and 16-19 were taken in June, 1992. All the rest were taken in April, 1992. Below the photographs are listed in numerical order and each view is described.)

1. Entrance gates; photographer facing north.
2. Driveway to main house looking toward Highway 42; photographer facing southeast.
3. Loop of driveway at main house looking back down driveway; photographer facing southeast.
4. Field at south corner of property; photographer facing south.
5. Grounds to west of house with field and stable in background; photographer facing west.
6. Drive to stable; photographer facing northwest.
7. Stable; photographer facing northwest.
8. Path leading from stable to main house showing kennels and potting shed; photographer facing northeast.
9. Kennel (left) and potting shed (right); photographer facing north.
10. Formal garden at rear west corner of house; photographer facing southwest.
11. Front facade of main house from driveway; photographer facing northwest.
12. Front facade of main house, central wing; photographer facing northwest.

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13. East side of main house; photographer facing southwest.
14. Rear facade of main house with semi-circular patio; photographer facing south.
15. Rear facade of main house showing pool area in right foreground; photographer facing south.
16. First floor central hall; photographer facing northwest.
- 17 Living room; photographer facing north.
- 18 Fireplace in den; photographer facing south.
- 19 Dining room; photographer facing north.