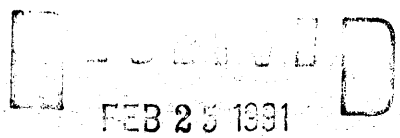


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Spalding, Leonard A., House

other names/site number MN-T-21

2. Location

street & number 307 East Main Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Lebanon

N/A vicinity

state Kentucky

code KY

county Marion

code 155

zip code 40033

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: NA

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

David L. Morgan
Signature of certifying official David L. Morgan

2-6-91
Date

State Historic Preservation Officer, Kentucky Heritage Council

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:)

Delores Byers
Entered in the National Register

4/3/91

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC

SINGLE FAMILY DWELLING

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC

SINGLE FAMILY

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

CLASSICAL REVIVAL

Late 19th and early 20th century

Revivals/ Neo-classical Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE / Limestone

walls Wood / weatherboard

aluminum clad overlay

roof SHINGLE/ composition

other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

SEE: Continuation Sheet

See continuation sheet

8. Statement of Significance

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

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)
Architecture

Period of Significance
1910

Significant Dates
1910

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

UNKNOWN/ Undetermined

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

SEE: Continuation Sheet

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

1. Johnston, C. A., Lebanon as I Have Known It: Recollections," Lebanon, KY, Lebanon Enterprise , 1922 (reprint of late 19th century text) filed at Marion Co. Public Lib
2. Lebanon Enterprise, 1905 advertisement, (micro-film files) at Marion Co. Public Library
3. " " March, 1913, News Item
4. 1910 U. S. Census Records, Marion County, Lebanon. (micro-film files) " Library
5. INTERVIEWS: Various members of Spalding-Mattingly Families, direct contact, records and Photographs — with present owners, Mr. & Mrs. Tommy Farris, related to D. H. Hall

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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Marion County Public Library and
Owner's Collection, Mr & Mrs Tom Farris

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than one acre

UTM References

A

16	6	5	4	5	7	5
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4	1	5	9	4	9	5
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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Lebanon East Quadrangle

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the nominated property correspond to the legal boundaries of the property as recorded in Deed Book 149, Page 448, Marion County Clerk's Office, Lebanon, Kentucky.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the nominated property is appropriate given the historical/architectural basis for significance of the Leonard A. Spalding house. The nominated property includes only that parcel that historically belonged to L.A. Spalding and was associated with his residence.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title David H. Hall
organization _____ date November 30, 1990
street & number 50 Ora Brent Road telephone (502) 348-4884
city or town Bardstown, Kentucky state Kentucky zip code 40004

United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation SheetSpalding, Leonard A., House MN-L-21
Lebanon, Marion County, KentuckySection number 7 Page 1

Item 7, Description -- the Leonard A. Spalding House MN-L-21

The Leonard Spalding House property (MN-L-21) in Lebanon, Kentucky, contains two resources, the house itself and a garage at the rear which is non-contributing due to age. Surrounded by a residential neighborhood, the two-and-one-half-story dwelling built in 1909-1910, is located on the corner lot at East Main Street and Forest Street, facing south toward the principal avenue of Main Street, also known as State Route 52-US 68, or the Jane Todd Crawford Trail, which continues east out of Lebanon to Perryville, Kentucky. Lebanon has approximately 6,000 residents (1980 census), is the seat of Government for Marion County and is laid out in a grid bisected by the Knoxville branch line of the former L & N Railroad. The branch railroad enters the town from the southwest and parallels Water Street through its passage from west to east. The tracks pass one block behind the Spalding House.

The Spalding House corner lot is located in the middle of a residential area stretching along Main Street from the downtown commercial district some two blocks west, to the Ryder Cemetery on the east. This area along Main Street contains some of the oldest and finest homes in the town dating from circa 1800 through circa 1920 infill examples.

Five separate listings to the National Register have been made in Marion County. All are district properties, including Burke's Mill (Maker's Mark Distillery), December, 1974; the Lebanon National Cemetery, June, 1975; Loretto Motherhouse, April, 1980; St. Mary's College Historic District, April, 1980; and the Lebanon Historic Commercial District (DIC-230), November, 1987, which is the nearest listing to the Leonard Spalding House.

The large, level lot measures 225-feet-deep by 120-feet-wide, with the house set back 45-feet on the front and west-side. Low foundation plants front the veranda and other new decorative plants are spaced about the well kept front yard (Photos 1 & 2). On the west side, near the sidewalk and adjacent to the rear driveway off Forest Street, is a massive Osage Orange tree. Other large shade trees and evergreens are to the rear and east side lot line. Remains of the original flower and vegetable garden are in the rear, north-east quarter of the lot, with various old ornamentals still in evidence. The modern garage, recently enclosed for shop-work space, is close behind the house facing Forest Street to the west. A plank fence at the back property line defines that boundary.

The Leonard Spalding House is typical in general exterior features and proportions of substantial, early 20th century residential designs, with a carry-over of certain features of the late Queen Anne style. But, the house has Classical Revival exterior trim, cornice railing and veranda. The basic configuration of the two-and-one-half story frame house is side passage, double-pile, with cubical, hip-roofed core. Gabled roofed wing and half-round bay extend east and west, respectively. Behind this cross tangent created in the floor plan, the rear element of the house structure is off-set three feet to the west making the roof structure more complex with attendant angles necessary to achieve this transition (Floor plan and Photos 1-2-3 & 4).

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Item 7, Description, Page 2, MN-L-21

The roof structure has a jerkin-head dormer centered on the front with three-part window. The similar rear-dormer has one-over-one sash. Three massive chimneys, all oriented toward the outer walls, pierce the roof with tall stacks. All have drip-course banding and corbelled, decorative caps. A one-story front veranda wraps around the east and extends beyond the west end where the ground-floor-front has a canted corner, with window, under the porch roof. At the rear is a one-story, full width, shed-roofed extension. Once an open, partial porch, it was enclosed in the house's first twenty years (Photos 3 & 4). The house is on a high limestone foundation (42 inches) shaped and worked to regular courses with mortared joints. A flight of six cut-stone steps ascends to the front veranda. A large basement under the main portion of the house includes a designed-in, hot-air furnace. The same foundation is under the front veranda.

Exterior details include Tuscan columns and dentiled cornice on the veranda. The deep, second-story eaves are corbeled with shaped modillions. The front dormer has flattened pilasters with Tuscan capitals to articulate the three-part window. Regular windows are one-over-one sash of various sizes and the variety of individual decorative windows will be described in the context of interior room fittings and décor. The front facade is basically four-bay, excepting the canted-corner-window adjacent to the main entry. The left bay entry (facing) is double-doors with side-lights and a leaded transom unit above with circle-diamond patterns. The same theme is repeated in the right-side ground floor bay, although less wide. This portal gives ingress-egress directly from the front veranda to the Library. The second-floor, front bays are aligned regularly over the lower, front-door units. They are floor length, French window units which give access to the front porch roof from each second-floor front room (Floor plan 2).

The exterior of the Leonard Spalding House was originally decorated with a three-part paint scheme of 'mustard yellow' on all siding, white on the trim, cornice and shutters and all sash and doors were a dark brown or black, in the manner of that era's house colors (Historic Photo 7). Today the house is all white on the exterior, including doors, and this treatment dates back more than thirty years.¹ The wood siding is presently covered by aluminum cladding in the same size and style as the original horizontal weather-board with four-inch reveal. This was installed in 1971 and does not impact any significant form or feature of the structure's flat-wall surfaces or decorative trim. An exception to this siding occurs on the half-round, two-story bay. It originally had matching horizontal cladding and now sports vertical-joint, aluminum board-like panels over the original wood. The present owners plan to remove the over-lay siding from this feature, restoring this surface to its proper, matching texture with adjacent horizontally clad walls.

Other exterior changes have been minimal. A low, parapet-like fence, originally on the front veranda roof was removed in the 1940's, along with the taller fence-railing on the back-porch roof.² Original shutters

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Spalding, Leonard A., House MN-L-21
 Lebanon, Marion County, Kentucky

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Item 7, Description, Page 3, MN-L-21

for the house have been stored in the basement from at least that same period. The roof has composition shingles over the original wood shingles and the present owners plan to replace and/or restore these documented elements to the exterior, including striped canvas awnings to veranda and west bay windows.

While the exterior of the Leonard Spalding House is individual and remarkable in style, detail and integrity for Lebanon, it is the interior design, finish and details which are collectively the most remarkable aspect of this spacious residence. This is particularly evidenced by the meticulously preserved ground floor formal area made up of entry-hall with stairs, library and the dining room (Floor Plan 1). Designed for entertaining, all spaces are inter-connected via pocket type double-doors (Library-to-Dining-Room-to-Entry-Room and base-of-Stairs).

The Entry-hall Room flows back on the west side of the house. It has a classical mantel adjacent to the double-entry doors. The mantel has fluted columns, squared Corinthian capitals and hooded overmantel with mirror. The parquet floor with running ribbon border has a basket-weave pattern. Walls are covered with tapestry-like woven fabric above a high rail in a leaf-floral pattern. Below the rail is Lyncrusta wall covering in a squared pattern. The ceiling is coffered with molded, decorative beams framing decorated, textured plaster squares. The front Library is divided from the entry room by a screen composed of flattened pilasters and paired columns with Ionic capitals. The library theme is medieval English with blackened oak wood-work carried through from ceiling beams to wall posts which create the half-timbered effect of that earlier time. The fireplace has simple mantel surround with flanking, low bookcases (leaded-glass glazing) and above each bookcase flanking the chimney-breast, paired windows feature square pattern, leaded panes, using pebbled, opaque, amber-colored glass which admits enhancing light for the walls warm-tan base color. The fireplace surround is yellow-buff tile, also used for the hearth. The same color in wood strips is set in a diagonal-geometric pattern in the field of the parquet floor.

Most striking aspect of the library is the extensive stenciling pattern worked on the plaster panels created by half-timbering members. Solid geometric designs in a frieze band against the ceiling accent heraldic, shield designs. Side panels have 'stork and crosses' but the main emphasis over both doors and mantel is reserved for the 'Knights of Columbus' heraldic diamond motif. In the lower, main panel formed over the dining room doors is the major heraldic emblem of 'Stork and Crosses, with Griffen', capping the shield device (Photo 9). In a ribbon pattern banding each side of the shield is the Latin motto, "Deum Non-Alium Timeo" (I fear none but God). The library's ceiling panels are also stenciled and decorated with borders, repeating some of the patterns (shield & cross) used on the wall panels, at the corner of borders. The plaster surface is heavily textured with circular patterns. Other panels on the library walls display the various allied family, heraldic Coat-of-Arms emblems. Stencil colors are dark blue, brick red and black, with extensive use of gold gilding and silver to highlight the heraldic emblems.

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Item 7, Description, Page 4, MN-L-21

Behind the library the extensive Dining-room has all cherry wood-work including built-in china-linen press in three sections, glazed above in diamond pattern, with drawers below. On the back wall of the dining-room, the press is recessed to produce a flush inside surface (Photo 11). The dining-room walls have a high wainscot capped with a plate rail. Below that, narrow panels are created with vertical stiles in cherry. The resulting framed plaster panels are heavily textured and painted a dark, forest green. Above the plate rail, upper walls are covered in a woven-fabric, tapestry design using green for vining and leaves with grapes and peaches in natural colors. The coffered ceiling panels of textured plaster are colored in peach-tan to match the tapestry background color. Above the tapestry is a deep, step-down cornice or frieze section in cherry, banding the room for the cherry, boxed ceiling-beams to finish against. The parquet floor has woven, running-rib-bon border with geometric crosses at the corners.

The bay extension end of the Dining-room is completely glazed in a system of casement sindows with tall transom panels above. A built-in seating bench coincides with the bay section and windows. The upper transoms are worked in leaded glass with a Tiffany type pattern of arched trellis with vining and grapes. The trellis piers are carried down the end casements as required to complete the three individual patterns. Incorporated with the art glass windows in the room as original decoration is the large, Tiffany type art-glass leaded lamp shade in the grape pattern, suspended over the dining area.³ It has matching shades for the sidewall sconces.

Doors in the Dining-room (both pocket and single) are core construction with birch wood veneer overlay used to create a recessed, elongated diamond pattern at top and bottom framing two rectangular panels in the middle. The same door pattern is repeated throughout the formal part of the house. The wood surface is then stained to match the room's dominant wood color, i.e., cherry for the dining-room interior.⁴

Housed in the half-round, west bay section, the remarkable Stair-case is in-line with the east-west tangent of the dining-room axis. Located at the rear of the long entry-hall room, the open stringer stair-case has splayed and rounded bottom risers with spiral-turned, urn-capped primary newel posts set out on the ends (Photo 15). The first run of treads ascends to the landing where it splits into twin matching runs, each turning one-hundred-eighty degrees to reach the upper hall. Three rope-turned balusters are ganged on each full tread. The molded balustrade railing continues unbroken along the upper hallway between the upper flights anchored with six secondary newel posts (Photo 16). The massive stair-well created by this design admits strong light to the upper and lower hall from three tall, decorative windows ganged side-by-side on the stair landing. The double-hung sash are glazed with long, leaded panels of pebbled amber-glass. Top sash have rounded-bottom pattern with green elliptical inserts. Small green diamonds are at the center-bar crossing rails.

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Spalding, Leonard A., House MN-L-21
Lebanon, Marion County, Kentucky

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Under the stairs' open stringer and landing, heavy plate-glass panels wall off an under-stairs solarium or in-house arboretum for keeping plants. Equipped with flowing fountain, the space is served by two balanced inside doors (for access to each side, within the half-round bay). Four, double-hung windows provide light and there is an outside door for service (Photo 3). The effect created is a stair-case supported by light and climbing into light when the classical revival design receives full afternoon sun. The landing has a built-in seating bench in three sections under the windows. Upper hall has a high wainscot rail, now wall-papered above with a scenic paper used in the rounded stair-well section.⁵

The remaining portion of the downstairs has back hall and kitchen on the west-rear corner with pantry behind. But behind the dining-room (an east-west hall serves as passage from kitchen to both) is the original 'Breakfast Room', with three-part casement windows, ganged side-by-side on the east wall. The sashes are glazed with leaded diamond pattern clear glass. In the back wall is a door leading to the back porch. And steps in the north-west corner begin an enclosed back stair-case which continues on the 2nd floor (piggy-back) to the finished 3rd level. The original decoration of this room continues the stenciling methods found in the library. A high, wainscot rail divided the upper walls of painted, decorated plaster from the lower portion, covered with painted canvas for texture. Above the rail, walls were painted in a coral-peach-tan made warmer by the final over-glaze applied after the stenciling. Around the walls above the windows an elaborate grape-and-vine pattern, done with multi-applications and high-lighted with gold, runs on a line with repeat of ripened bunches suspended and star-shaped leaves between. The ceiling was stenciled to emulate decorative plaster with a border-ribbon pattern intertwined at the corners with a roccoco floral cartouche done in combination of both oil and tempera colors.⁶ Hand-painting touches and high-lighting are evident in all these stencils. Woodwork is done in a golden-oak color with inner doors in the ungraduated, horizontal panel design.

The second floor has the formal section corresponding in area and location to the first level. The west-front room over the entry is the Gentleman's Study done with Craftsman-style oak mantel, featuring built-in side storage presses (reportedly for guns, etc.). Natural, unglazed red tile makes the fireplace surround and hearth with forged-iron edging, and supports for the grate opening. Woodwork is purposely in contrast with dark wood surrounds and baseboard while doors are light golden maple. The floor-length front windows that open as French doors are paneled at the bottom creating a double window effect but offer maximum ventilation and access to the front porch roof, as desired.

On the east-front, over the downstairs library, is the Master Bedroom.⁶ The delicate, classical revival mantel has reeded columns with Adamesque ovals and center urn with ribbons. Blue glazed-tile is used for hearth and fireplace surround. The coal insert is made in heavy bronze with classical motifs on frame and decorative cover plate.

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Item 7, Description, Page 6, MN-L-21

Woodwork in the room is light, golden toned (probably a 'maple' finish) darkened by age, especially on the mantel. The parquet floor utilizes a woven geometric border design.

Behind this bedroom is the combination Dressing and Sitting Room elongated by the east wing extension (corresponding to the dining room under it). This large room has most of the hallway end (west) covered with built-in clothes storage press (center) flanked by main hall access on the left and large closet on the right (Photo 20 and Floor plan 2). The east or 'bayed-end' of the room has four large matching, one-over-one windows paired at the corners. All wood-work, doors and presses are finished in mahogany stain. Connected to the dressing room and behind it is the nursery or children's room. The remainder of the second floor is composed of two-part, original bathroom (west side) and the north-south hallway which connects the formal front rooms and main stairs with bath, rear rooms and back stairs, including the enclosed flight to the third floor servants quarters and storage.

Changes to the interior have been remarkably few. The kitchen was modernized with cabinets and wall-covering about 1950. Another bathroom was added on the second floor, rear, in what had been walk-in storage (the original is split with tub in one room and commode in another, still unchanged). Only the breakfast room was extensively 're-decorated' about 1950, covering over important original decoration and is now in the process of restoration. The present owners intend to restore the upper, main hallway with fabric-tapestry wall-covering in a scenic pattern, returning it to the same spirit as originally finished after further research in compatible materials, sources and methods.

On-going interior work continues in refurbishing all original art-glass windows and putting back in place all known original hardware and light fixtures. Numerous members of the allied Spalding-Mattingly families have been more than generous to the dedicated new owners, supplying them detailed information and historic photographs which document the house and its early occupants. They have also restored to the home important pictures, portraits and furnishings, responding to the new enthusiasm and effort under-way refurbishing and preserving one of rural Kentucky's most remarkable residential interiors.

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Item 7, footnotes

MN-L-21

1. Paint colors are indicated in historic photos supplied by members of the Spalding and Mattingly families, who indicated from memory (interviews) the mustard yellow, while sash color remains uncertain. The wooden shingle roof may also have been painted or stained, as original finish.
2. Both railings had the function of safety guard since access to the porch roofs was designed into the house. Removal may have resulted from roof repairs and/or maintenance considerations about 1940, but also indicate the owners, at that time, did not actually use the potential (or intend anyone else to do so) of 'sitting out' on the porch roof of the residence, a popular feature of American residential design, circa 1890-1920, similar to the present deck fad in many homes.
3. The square Tiffany type shade was removed from the dining room by subsequent owners and put in storage in the attic due to changing tastes. Descendants of the original owner, L.A. Spalding, came to 'get the shade' with permission, as the house was about to be auctioned in 1988 but could not find it. After purchasing the residence, the present owners discovered the hiding place (knowing the background) and restored the heavy shade to its original position in the dining room scheme.
4. High-figured birch was used on these custom doors, to facilitate staining, as necessary, the versatile hard wood to match the particular surface to the attendant room scheme. As an example, the library side of pocket doors are antique oak-black while the dining room side matches the cherry woodwork and trim. The other pair toward the staircase are 'mahogany' on the exterior and cherry tint on the inside (dining room).

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Item 7, Description footnotes, continued MN-L-21

5. Original tapestry covering above the rail in the upper stairwell (a hunt scene) was removed for cleaning about 1950 and disintegrated in the treatment process, probably the result of strong sunlight in the upper stairwell for forty years. This original treatment carried on with the extensive fabric-tapestry wall covering applied to ground floor rooms. The remaining tapestry material is mounted on tack strips at the edges with gimp border finishing, similar to upholstery of furniture. The walls are painted behind the fabric covering but this must have been standard practice since no one can remember the house without the tapestry covered walls and the earliest interior pictures show it in place. In the upper hall, original textured canvas wall covering (painted) is behind the existing wallpaper covering.

6. For late 20th century use and living style, it would not be apparent that the smaller front room was designed as the 'Master Bedroom'. Rather, the larger dressing room, with impressive built-in storage, indicates that original use. But descendants recalled and explained the original bedroom function, adding that it was first equipped with an original lavatory on the inside-back wall (dressing room). The new owners then located the old plumbing holes where it mounted. This leads to the conclusion about the 'dressing-sitting room' function which must have played its part in the formal entertaining and parties, providing a haven for the ladies while the men had their library and study in the house's formal area.

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Spalding, Leonard A., House MN-L-21
Lebanon, Marion County, Kentucky

Section number 8 Page 1

Item 8, Significance -- the Leonard Spalding House MN-L-21

The Leonard Spalding House (MN-L-21) is significant as an outstanding example of residential architecture in Lebanon, Kentucky. The property is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C, in the context of "Architecture in Lebanon and Marion County, 1790-1940" and is important for its association with Leonard Spalding who was important in the context. The full context for business and commerce in Lebanon for the period has not been developed at this time. Thus the property is not cited for significance under Criterion B. The architect designed house, built in 1909-10, incorporates a wide range of interior decorative themes woven, room-by-room, to include late Victorian tastes in art glass windows and lighting fixtures, coupled with Classical Revival entry and staircase detail, plus English-Tudor-Romantic elements in the Library and the latest Craftsman design influence in various rooms including the upstairs Study. The resultant impressive scale and eclectic architectural accomplishment of this urban type residence erected in a rural County-seat, Kentucky town reflects the rising career and financial success of its original owner, Leonard Augustus Spalding (1872-1958).

Lebanon, County-seat of Marion (formed in 1834), grew rapidly into a handsome town from its founding before 1800. Surrounded by a rich agricultural region, the south-central Kentucky Bluegrass, the town experienced increased growth and expansion before and after the Civil War with improved roads and the major rail traffic resulting from the Knoxville L&N Branch Railroad. This modern transport artery connected the rural town to major urban centers, particularly Louisville, for business, commerce and supplies of goods and services.

Leonard A. Spalding was born in 1872 and raised in Lebanon, the son of William R. and Anna Wathen Spalding. Educated in the local schools and academies, he was descended from farmers, merchants and bankers in the community and his first position was in the mercantile store of Nathen Wathen Putnam who would ultimately become his father-in-law. But as a young man he entered into a career in the Insurance business. His advertisement appears in the local paper, dated 1905, for the Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Company (Spalding & Mackin, Agents, Lebanon).¹

Lebanon and Marion County had a large number of Catholics resulting from the 1785-1800 Maryland League exodus and settlement to that region of Kentucky. Spalding was descended from those settlers and late in the 19th century, nationally organized Catholic fraternal and insurance organizations began a period of remarkable growth. Founded in 1882 in New Haven, Connecticut, the Knights of Columbus was not simply parish based in its varied activities. More flexible than some of the Catholic men's clubs, they accepted associate as well as 'insurance members'. Part of the K of C's potential benefits was 'life insurance' and that was written only through Mutual Benefit Life. Rapid growth and expansion followed for the Knights of Columbus all over the country. Leonard Spalding was a leader establishing the Lebanon Council of the K of C. To say that his insurance business grew and prospered is to state the obvious.

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Spalding, Leonard A., House MN-L-21
Lebanon, Marion County, Kentucky

Section number 8 Page 2

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Spalding had married Eloise Isabelle Putnam in 1895. With increasing family (3 children in the 1910 census) and business success, the new home was planned for the corner lot, an open portion of the extensive old Kavanaugh place at 315 East Main Street, made available by family connections.

Development of residential architecture in Lebanon reflects the general pattern found in similar Kentucky towns established circa 1800. Vernacular examples in both brick and frame reflecting local tastes and skills of craftsmen display Federal details and lay-out, evolving to early Greek Revival and finally, full-blown examples of Kentucky's favorite style before the Civil War. Italianate detailing was also utilized beginning about 1855 with some mix of retained Greek Revival elements. Around Civil War time and after, some older houses were added to and re-modeled using a mix of revival detailing. Full blown, post-Civil War examples (for Kentucky) reflect the changing times including fully developed Italianate with mansard capped tower and frame houses displaying the intricate brackets and decoration made possible by mechanized saws and new manufacturing methods. Lebanon has the various Victorian styles represented including cottage style with gables and romantic Gothic elements as furthered by the designs of Davis, Downing and Vaux, plus Queen Anne influence in both cottages and two-story examples. The initial Historical Resources Inventory conducted by the Kentucky Heritage Council in 1970 details earlier residential types through circa 1870 (See: KHC files, Inventory Resource reports by 'Dahringer', 1970). The later, increased survey work conducted in 1983 for the Kentucky Heritage Council was more comprehensive through the 1930's (preparatory to nomination of the Lebanon Historic Commercial District, N.R., November, 1987). Only two residential structures were delineated in that study from the period 1900-1910, adjudged worthy of National Register status as 'distinctive'. They were the Leonard Spalding House, MN-L-21 and the Will Wallace Spalding House, MN-L-62 built by two brothers in a five year period (See: KHC files, Inventory Resources reports by Joe DeSpain, 1983).

It is reasonable to assume that a Louisville architect, yet to be identified, designed the complicated residence for L. A. Spalding. He had connections with Louisville because of his Insurance business and family descendants recall that the specialized materials which went into the house, plus work-men to install these many items (particularly interior elements), came from Louisville firms.

Of particular significance in the Leonard Spalding House is the eclectic intricacy displayed over-all which had to be designed and organized then executed in expert fashion, well removed from the locations such structures are normally found. The vital railroad link for travel and transport made the house possible and brought it to reality. The result is a remarkable and singular residence for Lebanon and this greater region of Kentucky. Again, descendants recall the two brothers vied with each other with the 'house-building' and W. W. Spalding apparently built his new home (MN-L-62) about 1905 utilizing imported architects

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Spalding, Leonard A., House MN-L-21
Lebanon, Marion County, Kentucky

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and workers. Perhaps Leonard Spalding learned from the process. While both houses are singular and unusual, they are each individual in their respective out-standing qualities. The Leonard Spalding House incorporates more eclectic and innovative features of the day and is on a grander scale with irregular floor plan than W. W. Spalding's effort. It is possible, after careful comparison, that both houses owe much of their singular character to the on-going competition between brothers, coupled with the education and means to pursue being different.² When finished Leonard Spalding's new residence became an instant focus of community pride. It even warranted a 'picture post-card' as one of Lebanon's most impressive examples of sophisticated residential construction.

Also of socio-economic significance worthy of future comparison with any other examples determined through state-wide study, is the remarkable stenciling decorating the Library. It displays in the residence the early 20th century interplay of fraternal organization (K of C) with business, social activity and family genealogy. The formal part of the house was designed with great attention given to parties, entertaining and hosting throngs of people on a regular basis. This obtuse organization toward that end is clear when analyzing the floor plan, coupled with variable openings (double-pocket-doors) and a rare form of stairs in any era for central Kentucky. Perhaps most remarkable is the unusual level of integrity; of so much unchanged about the house, particularly on the interior, which provides a rare opportunity to experience early 20th century space, style and décor.

In March, 1913, only three years after finishing the new house, Leonard Spalding received a major promotion to Superintendent of Agencies, Louisville District, for Mutual Benefit Life Insurance.³ This led to a move in 1914, to Omaha, Nebraska, and in 1916, back to Baltimore, Maryland. Finally, in 1919, Spalding sold the house to a distant relative, T. A. Mattingly, already allied in various ways back to the generations who made the original trek from Maryland.⁴ T. A. Mattingly left the home to his son, Robert E. Mattingly, who remained in residence the remainder of his life. In his last years the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph took up residence providing care. After his death in 1970, the heirs sold the house to the religious order from Maple Mount, Kentucky. The Ursuline Sisters recovered the roof and added the aluminum cladding on the exterior. By 1988, their reduced numbers and changing mission in the Lebanon, Kentucky, area caused the most recent change.

The new owners, Tommy and Karen Farris, set about instantly to research the unusual house, its previous owners and their history, while repairing the interior elements first which had been altered or required immediate attention. They are planning the use of historic preservation easements to protect the remarkable room interiors which collectively make up the eclectic ambiance of another era now eighty years past.

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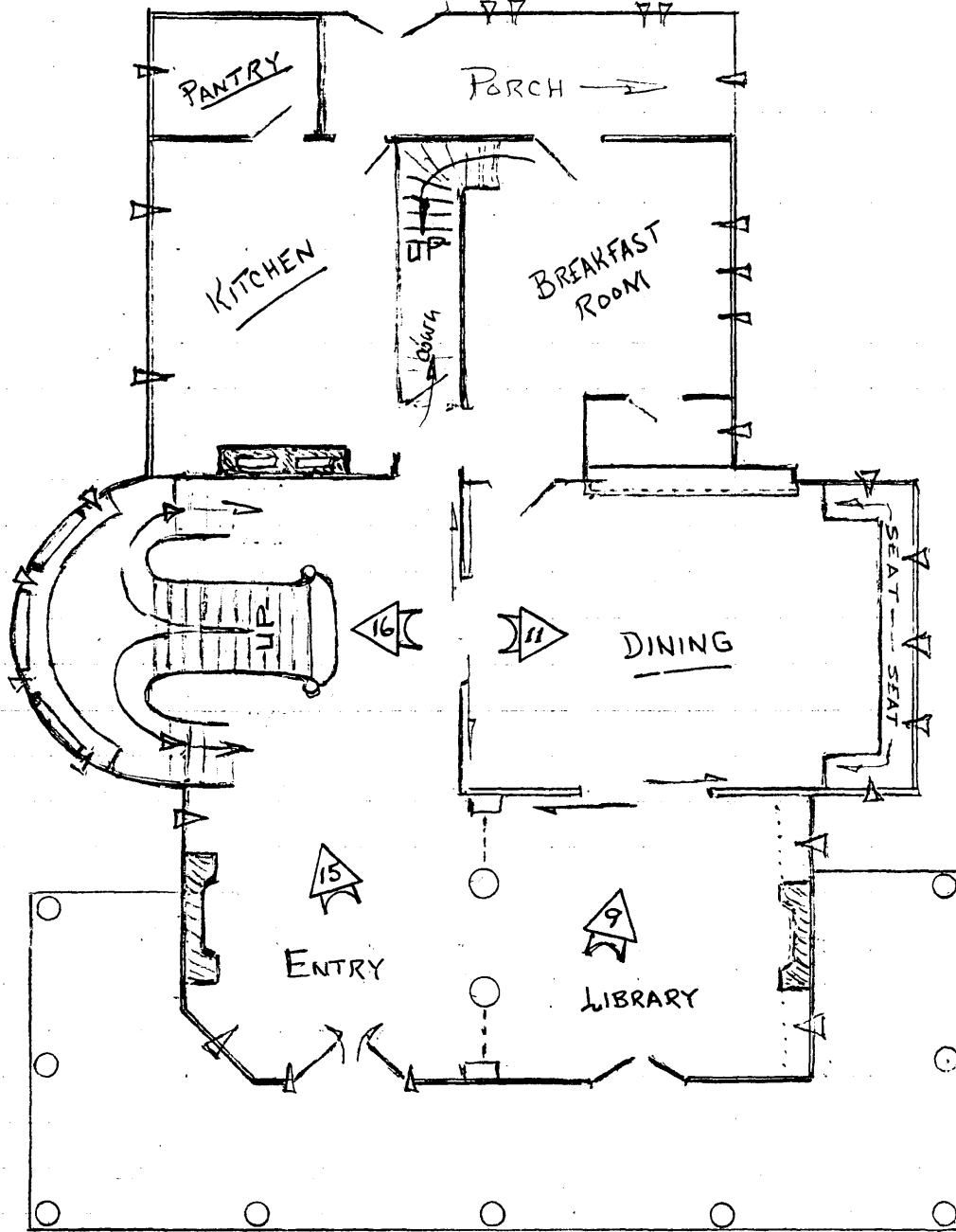
Spalding, Leonard A., House MN-L-21
Lebanon, Marion County, Kentucky

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Item 8, Significance, footnotes, Leonard Spalding House, MN-L-21


1. The 1905 advertisement has an art display with the text depicting a Roman style 'Knight' with oval shield, bearing the motto, "I LIVE AND DIE FOR THOSE I LOVE", above the spread-eagled form of a Stork feeding nestlings from a wound in the breast. This same classic rendering which conveys the ultimate, selfless sacrifice is used in religious art of the Roman Catholic Church. Thus, the philosophical association between Mutual Benefit Life and the Catholic tenets is symbolically established for the public without direct statements.
2. Will Wallace Spalding's house (MN-L-62) is quite different and flamboyant in its own right. Built of brick with a more regular and balanced floor plan, the Colonial Revival example features interior wood-work displaying much vernacular hand-carving. There are other examples in the community, too. Family descendants stress that Mrs. Leonard Spalding (Isabelle Putnam Spalding) personally determined and coordinated the room interiors and décor, including cloth samples, colors and varied effect of wood finishes, floor patterns, etc.
3. The news item states; "Mr. Spalding, while spending much of his time away from here will continue his residence and business in this city" --- Ultimately, L. A. Spalding rose to a major position with Mutual Benefit Life Insurance which he held until retirement.
4. The connection already existing between first and second owners of the house was cemented in later years when Austin Mattingly, son of T. A. Mattingly, married Leonard and Isabelle Spalding's daughter, Nan. Today, both families, which includes several generations, feel a mutual and deep regard for this individual home which has played such a great part in their mutual personal-family history.

FLOOR PLAN 1, MN-L-21
Spalding, Leonard A., House
Lebanon, Kentucky

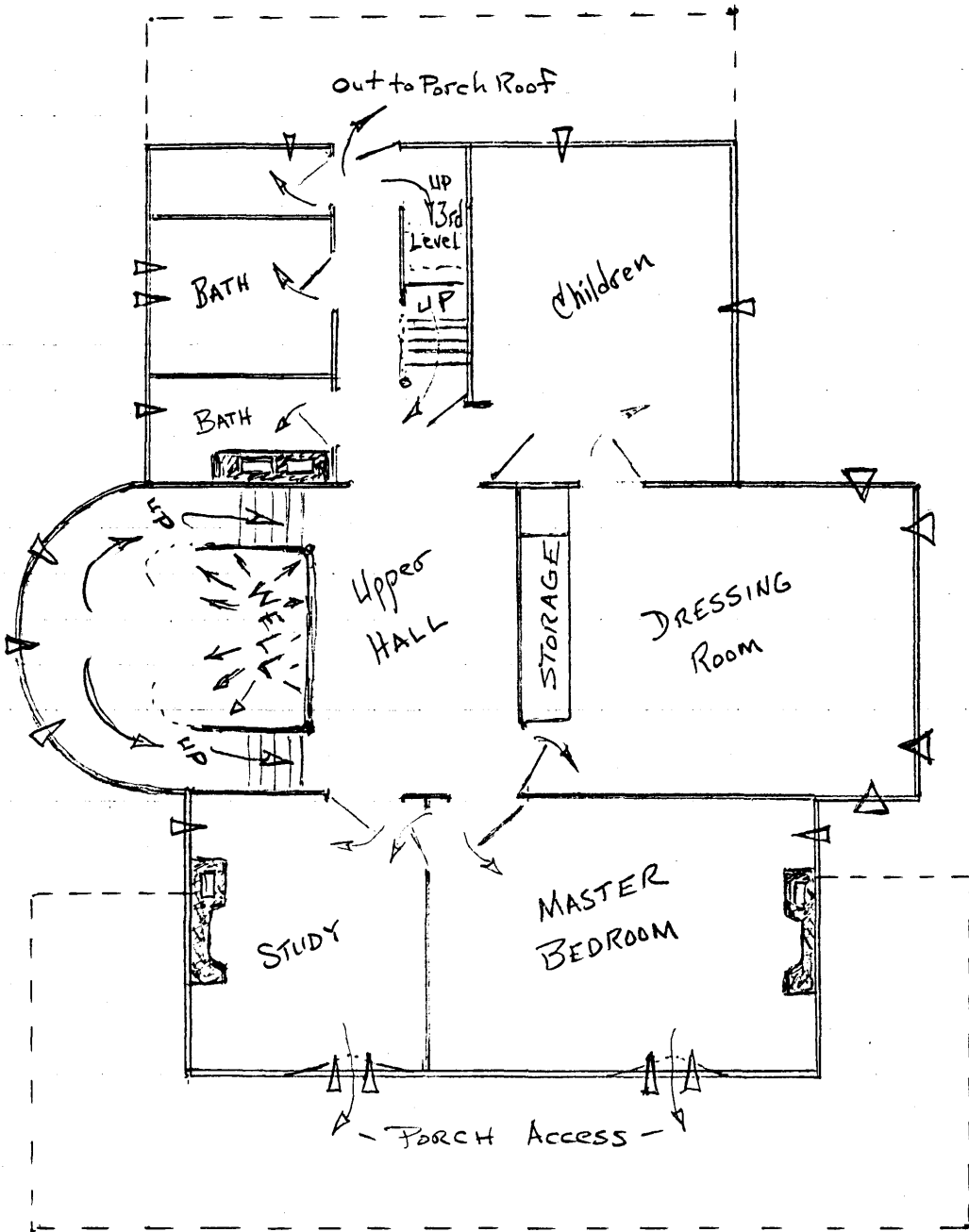


FRONT
1st FLOOR



(Photo IND = )
SCALE 1 IN = 10 feet
D.H.H.

FLOOR PLAN 2, MN-L-21
Spalding, Leonard A., HOUSE
LEBANON, KENTUCKY



FRONT
2ND FLOOR

SCALE 1 in = 10 feet
D.H.H.

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Spalding, Leonard A., House (MN-L-21)
Lebanon, Marion County, Kentucky

For All Photos:

Name of Property: Spalding, Leonard A., House
Location of Property: Lebanon, Marion County, Kentucky
Photographer: David H. Hall
Date Taken: April, 1990
Negative Location: 307 East Main Street
Lebanon, Kentucky

Photo No.

- | | |
|----|--|
| 1 | Front view, southeast corner, looking north-northwest |
| 2 | Front quartering view, southwest corner, looking east-northeast |
| 3 | Rear view, northwest rear corner, looking southeast |
| 4 | Rear view, northeast rear corner, looking southwest |
| 9 | Interior detail, stencil panels in library, K of C and Latin phrase |
| 11 | Interior detail, dining room with art glass windows and light shades |
| 15 | Interior detail, lower run of stairs with glazed arboretum under landing |
| 16 | Interior detail, semi-circular stair landing with matched, dual upper runs |