

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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

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Owensboro

Continuation sheet Multiple Resources/Clements Item number

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Name: Le Vega Clements House (DOAB 10)

Location: 1530 E. 4th

Owner: Lucinda Clements Estate

Classification: Building

% John W. Stevenson

1530 E. 4th St. *change to 1500 W. Highland Ave*
Owensboro, Ky 42301

Specific Dates: 1894-97

Description: The Clements House is a two-story, double-pile brick structure dominated by a three-story hexagonal tower projecting from the end of the front facade. The tower is balanced by an asymmetrical, pediment and double Ionic columns that identify the location of the main entrance to the house. The corner of the porch extends out into an Ionic-columned turret. The porch turns and runs to another entrance located in a round side tower. A contrasting wall texture of brick and stone is achieved by placing sandstone "eyebrow" lintels above the windows and a sandstone watercourse around the house. Brick patterning is used to create panels, piers, and stringcourses. The pedimented front gable contains a half-moon window surrounded by a sheet metal hood. The sheet metal decorations highlight the third story of the tower where double squat columns divide the round windows. The tower is topped with a double-capped slate roof. The hipped roof of the central block of the house retains its original patterned slate, finials, and dormer windows. The interior of the house has elaborate woodwork, mantles, and stained glass windows. There are no original outbuildings on the site.

Significance: The Clements House is the finest examples of Queen Anne domestic architecture in Owensboro. The house, called Highlands by its builder, Sylvester Monarch, is appropriately named because of its commanding position on a hill overlooking the Ohio River. The house and yard cover an entire block. Much of the original view of the river has been cut off by modern housing and industrial development. The Monarch family came from France and settled first in Maryland before coming to Owensboro in the 1830's. They brought their possessions in ox-carts and settled on the Hardinsburg Rd. east of Owensboro. The six Monarch sons all followed in the footsteps of their ancestors and became distillers. Little community progress was made that was not affected by one of them. In the height of their financial success the brothers all built grand homes, several of them on Distiller's Row - East 4th St. - between Wing and Highland. The finest was Richard Monarch's home which was razed for the construction of Daviess Co. Middle School. Martin V. Monarch's home is best known because it was used by an order of nuns who took an oath of silence until being razed in 1970. The Moanrch-Payne and Le Vega Clements Houses still remain. The LeVega Clements house was built between 1894 and 1897 by Sylvester Monarch, who owned Eagle Distillery and a large stock-yard. After prohibition the house was sold to Le Vega Clements, attorney and founder of the Kentucky Buggy Co. and mayor of Owensboro. His family lived in it until the last heir died in

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1985.

Acreage: Approximately .579 acres

Verbal Boundary Description: The Le Vega Clements House is designated on the Owensboro Metropolitan Planning Commission's Computerized Land Use File - Census Tract 4, Traffic Zone 27, Block Number 514; Parcel Number 23.

UTM References: (Owensboro East) 16/491920/4180540