

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED JUL 28 1975  
DATE ENTERED AUG 28 1975

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC  Woodland (Hart-Featherston House)  
AND/OR COMMON  
Hartston

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER E of Lexington on  
Route 1, Squires Road off U.S. 421  
CITY, TOWN Lexington VICINITY VICINITY OF 06  
STATE Kentucky CODE 021 COUNTY Fayette CODE 067

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

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

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Mr. and Mrs. Richard Featherston, Jr.  
STREET & NUMBER Route 1, Squires Road  
CITY, TOWN Lexington VICINITY OF STATE Kentucky

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Fayette County Courthouse  
STREET & NUMBER Main Street  
CITY, TOWN Lexington STATE Kentucky

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE Historic Survey and Plan for Lexington & Fayette County (continued)  
DATE 1970  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Lexington-Fayette County Planning Commission  
CITY, TOWN Lexington STATE Kentucky

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Hartston, an 18th-century two-story brick residence, is located off a tree-lined country road two miles from Highway 421 on the outskirts of Lexington, Kentucky (photo 1). The terrain is gently rolling with a number of large trees and shrubbery surrounding the house which faces the older Armstrong Mill Road. Armstrong Mill runs from east to west at a right angle to Squires Road. Certain features bespeak its early construction: the string course between the stories on the front of the Flemish bond facade, paneling on the open staircase wall beneath the decorated step ends, and the paneled jambs of the entrance bay. Of particular interest too are the original pegged window frames, the handsome molded window sills, and the shutters equipped with hold backs or shutter dogs and strap hinges.

The front section of the house (photo 2) is five bays wide (the one-story portico over the central doorway was added in 1958 to replace a Victorian porch). The original portico enclosed an area approximately three feet to either side of the entrance (marks on the brick are still visible). At some time, a window above the entrance bay was removed and a door installed equipped with a transom of an early type. The ends of the main block are flat with end chimneys flanked by attic "lookout" windows. A small one-story wing on the west side of the main block, called the "bachelor's room", which is believed to have been original to the house, was removed in 1892. The door to the wing was replaced with a window (photo 3).

The central block is composed of three rooms on the lower floor, two on the upper floor, with a full attic above. A good example of the use of plaster with hogs hair binder is exposed in the attic.

From the front portal one enters a central hall. The stairway rises on the left side with slender balustrades and a vigorous sweep of cut-out stringers (photo 7). Other details of the first-floor interior include mantels with breakfront shelves that appear to be c. 1810, and original chair railings. Mantels found in the second floor rooms are of a type assembled by early carpenters from multiple moldings. All the floors in the house are of ash, with the exception of the floor in the dining room, thought to be of oak. The mantels throughout are walnut. The house includes nine walnut cross and open Bible design doors, a feature common to early Kentucky interiors (photo 8).

Attached to the west side of the rear of the front block is a two-story brick wing which has one room on each floor (photos 3, 4, &5). The upper floor is reached by an enclosed corner stairway, the inner wall of which is lined with diagonal beaded boards. There is no passway from the second floor "mammy room" to the front section, isolating this room from the rest of the house. Two original wooden presses are found in this middle wing.

The former kitchen is behind the two-story section of the ell, originally attached by an open dogtrot. The old kitchen which was at one time converted into a garage now serves

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES ca 1787

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Unknown

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Hartston holds particular significance for Fayette County and for Kentucky because of its association with the Harts and Featherstons, families which reflect the early history of the area and of the state. Nathaniel Hart, father of the builder, was one of the original members of the Transylvania Company, a land company which at one time claimed ownership of over one-third of the present state of Kentucky. The company was to play a very important part in attracting settlers to the area despite the fact that their land claims were later voided (Stewart, p. 226). The Harts and Featherstons have owned the house for all but two years of its 188-year history. Its present owner Richard Featherston, Jr., is a descendant of both lines, and the current name of the house is appropriately a combination of Hart and Featherston.

In 1775 the Transylvania Company bought from the Cherokee Indians for the sum of 10,000 pounds the vast territory west of the Cumberland Mountains between the Ohio, Kentucky, and Cumberland Rivers (Clark, p. 41). Nine men made up the company headed by Colonel Richard Henderson, including Thomas, David, and Nathaniel Hart. Nathaniel Hart set out alone for the Cherokee towns and by conferring with the chiefs arranged for the treaty with the land company concluded on March 17, 1775 (Peter, p. 892). It was under the company's direction that Daniel Boone blazed a trail from North Carolina through Tennessee to Kentucky and that Boonesborough, the first fortified station in Kentucky, was established.

Nathaniel Hart (1734-1782), "a leading spirit in the opening of Kentucky and the establishment of Boonesborough," was a man of influence and social position (Henderson, p. 5). Originally from Virginia, Hart later emigrated to North Carolina and there became acquainted with Judge Henderson. Although the Virginia House of Delegates decided in 1778 that the purchase of land from the Cherokees by Henderson and his company was void, some compensation was awarded for their trouble and the expense of making purchases, settling land, increasing the number of inhabitants in the state, and establishing a barrier against the Indians. Hart was awarded 200 pounds for extraordinary services rendered and risk encountered by him in the settling of Kentucky (Genealogy, p. 11). In 1779 Hart settled his family at White Oak Spring Station (or Hart's Station) only one mile above Boonesborough. Hart remained active in the affairs of the newly opened country until 1782, when he was killed by Indians (Memorial Celebration, p. 11).

(continued)

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Clark, Thomas D. A History of Kentucky. Lexington: The John Bradford Press, 1960, pp. 41, 45.

Drake, Mrs. William Preston. Kentucky in Retrospect, Noteworthy Personages and Events in Kentucky History. Commonwealth of Kentucky: Sesquicentennial Commission, 1942, p. 185.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 9 1/2 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 723090 4205740  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B           
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C           
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D           
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mrs. James Park, Jr.

GM

ORGANIZATION

Lexington-Fayette County Historic Commission

DATE

April 17, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

187 Market Street

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Lexington

STATE

Kentucky

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Eldred W. Metton

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

7-15-75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

AUG 28 1975

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
 ATTEST

Ernest A. Connolly  
W. Metton

DATE

DATE

AUG 22 1975

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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Woodland (Hart-Featherston House)

Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky  
1974 State  
Kentucky Heritage Commission  
Frankfort, Kentucky

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Woodland (Hart-Featherston House)

as a family room, with a shallow bay filling the former opening of the garage door. The enclosed dogtrot area presently functions as the kitchen. The side porch has been lengthened on one end and partitioned for the addition of a bathroom.

Although family tradition has it that the ell was constructed first and the front block added some 10 to 15 years later, there are facts which contradict the theory:

1. The present dining room ell (considered by the family to be older) has Flemish bond only on the northwest side. This Flemish bond and that of the northwest gable end of the front section present a continuous facade with the Flemish bond pattern unbroken. There is no sign of either section being an addition. The stone foundation of the front section is topped, as was customary, with several courses of stretchers before the Flemish bond begins. These rows of stretchers continue along the dining room ell, which is lower, at a level high above that of a normal foundation, clear indication that the walls were laid up at the same time.

2. The one wall of the ell laid in Flemish bond would have been the front, had the building been constructed as a separate entity. However, there is no evidence of a door in this wall, and window openings (outfitted with the original moldings and sills) are not centered on the ell as would be expected in a building constructed to stand alone.

3. Concave moldings of interior window and door frames in the ell match those of the front. Convex moldings on exterior window frames of the ell are identical to those of the front, indicating that these moldings were run at the same time.

These factors indicate an ell constructed at the same time as the front section. They may, however, reflect a lengthy period of construction, perhaps with occupancy of the ell before the front was finished, and this may account for the family tradition.

A 20th-century frame cabin is located behind (or NW) of the house, and a stone spring house built at sub-ground level is within 200 feet to the rear of the house. A barn is east. Construction of a school and park is planned for the area immediately north of the house on Squires Road and greater development of the surrounding area appears certain in the near future.

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The children of Nathaniel Hart made their own mark in their communities. His daughter Susannah married Isaac Shelby, Kentucky's first governor (Memorial Celebration, p. 11). His son John (1773-1846) settled in Fayette County and in the late 18th century (c. 1792) in a beautiful wooded area near Kettle Spring, built Hartston (or Woodland, as it was originally called) on land thought to have belonged to his father. The land later came into dispute and eventually had to be purchased from a man named Hawkins.

John Hart was married to Mary Irvine, daughter of Captain Christopher Irvine and granddaughter of Colonel Richard Calloway. Calloway's two daughters, Betsey and Frances Calloway, had been rescued from the Indians in 1776, after an attack on Boonesborough, an event often written about in Kentucky history. Before moving to Woodland, John and Mary Hart lived in Danville, Kentucky, where he was engaged in the mercantile business. They owned the house which later became the home of Dr. Ephraim McDowell, the famous pioneer surgeon whose wife was married to John Hart's first cousin.

Hart died in 1846 and is buried in the family cemetery 100 yards from the house. The house and land then passed to John's son Nathaniel C. Hart. At Nathaniel's death in 1898 John H. Hart, Nathaniel's brother, became executor of the property for the next eleven years. He was one of the first farmers in Fayette County to introduce imported animals for breeding purposes. The property then passed to Nathaniel's daughter Myra D. Hart, married to Warren Featherston. The property remained in the Featherston family until its sale in 1922, but was regained by the Featherstons two years later. The present owners are Featherstons, distinguished in being related by marriage to such prominent families as the Clays, Shelby's, Marshalls and Combs. Warren Featherston's father, Robert Wright Featherston (1803-1899), was from Virginia, brought to Kentucky by his parents at an early age. "Old Marse" Featherston was well-known in the area--his obituary describes him as one of the "most honored and respected citizens" of the county.

The Hart-Featherston house presents an unpretentious sturdy appearance--its early construction easily identifiable by the belt course across the facade. The wood trim, particularly the Greek Revival mantels, points to its adaptation and illustrate continued use by its owners. It is an attractive example of an early brick Kentucky house, and a tangible link with families important to county and state history. It is hoped that, with residential development slowly making its way southward along Squires Road from Lexington, the Hart-Featherston House will be preserved in a congenial setting.

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Henderson, Archibald. "The Transylvania Company and the Founding of Henderson,  
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Kincaid, Robert L. The Wilderness Road. Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill Co., 1947,  
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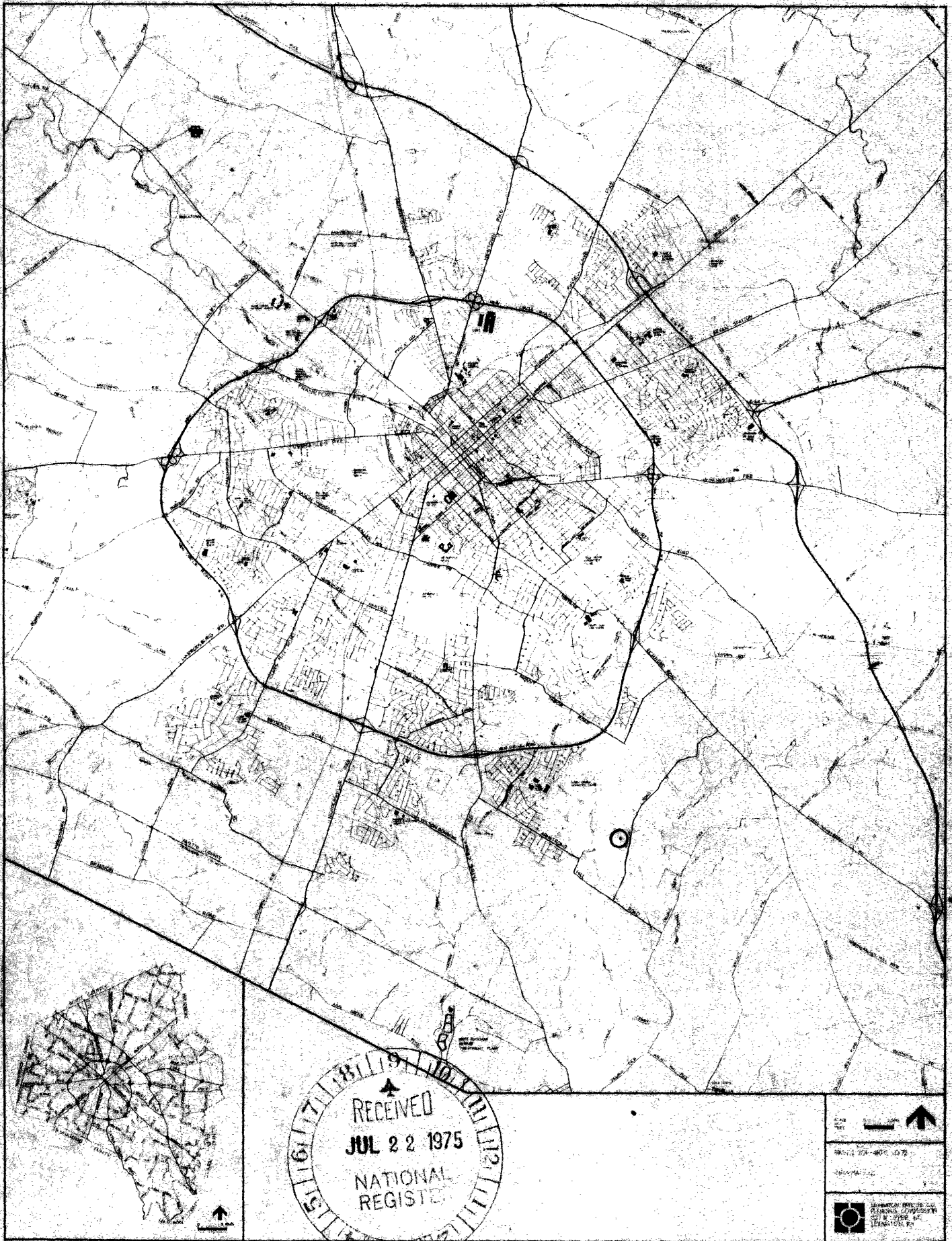
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Stewart, William Lester. The Transylvania Colony. Spencer, Indiana: Samuel R.  
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Wilson, Samuel Mackay. Susan Hart Shelby A Memoir. Lexington: 1923.





1972 County Map

1" = 6000'

Sec. F.C. Planning Commission, 227 N. Upper

Co. Map

1" = 6000'

