

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAY 31 1977

DATE ENTERED

DEC 16 1977

**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

Highland Hall

AND/OR COMMON

Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

6208 Richmond Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Lexington

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

06

STATE

Kentucky

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

021

Fayette

067

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

 DISTRICT PUBLIC OCCUPIED AGRICULTURE MUSEUM BUILDING(S) PRIVATE UNOCCUPIED COMMERCIAL PARK STRUCTURE BOTH WORK IN PROGRESS EDUCATIONAL PRIVATE RESIDENCE SITE**PUBLIC ACQUISITION** ACCESSIBLE ENTERTAINMENT RELIGIOUS OBJECT IN PROCESS YES: RESTRICTED GOVERNMENT SCIENTIFIC BEING CONSIDERED YES: UNRESTRICTED INDUSTRIAL TRANSPORTATION NO MILITARY OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Dr. and Mrs. James A. Knoblett

STREET & NUMBER

6208 Richmond 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 and Fayette County

DATE

1970

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Lexington-Fayette County Planning Commission

CITY, TOWN

Lexington

STATE

Kentucky

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Highland Hall, an "L"-shaped, two-story house of the late Greek Revival style, is located ten miles southeast of Lexington and 125 feet south of the Richmond Road (U.S. Highway 25). Once the main residence for a large farm, Highland Hall is now surrounded by five acres.

THREE 1/2

Facing north is the symmetrically arranged main facade of ~~five~~ bays (see photo 1). This side of the brick house is laid in Flemish bond, whereas all others are in common. Sheltering the central bay is a chaste pedimented portico whose original supports were four square columns of brick that were stuccoed and painted white. These, however, were destroyed by a storm in the 1950s and were replaced with more slender square columns of wood. The central entrance, though plain in comparison with many of the Greek Revival style, is Highland Hall's most ornate feature (see photo 2). The six-paneled door with transom and sidelights is recessed behind two piers treated with pilasters and surmounted by a simple entablature. Patterned after those of the piers are other pilasters adorning the recessed portion. Colossal brick pilasters of slight projection define the portico's boundaries and the north facade's corners.

On the east and west sides of the front ell are chimneys set one brick outside the wall; and flanking each, with one exception on the east, are blind windows disguised by closed shutters (see photos 3 and 4). The west side has a one-story gallery covered with a pent roof and supported by two brick columns and a pier (see photo 3). The east side has a double gallery with two brick columns, one of which is imbedded with a stone block bearing the date of Highland Hall's erection, 1855 (see photo 5). Beyond this gallery is a section having a lower roofline, a pent-roofed porch on the east, and a central chimney on its south wall.

The spacious entry hall is flanked on either side by parlors which are entered through eight-paneled sliding doors that almost reach the ceiling's height. All interior woodwork of walnut, including door framing elements, baseboards of moderate height, and all but one of the fireplace mantels, are Greek Revival in style and were designed with chasteness in mind. This quality correlates these interior features with the simplicity of the portico in its former and present states (see photos 6, 7, and 8). A cast-iron Victorian mantel has replaced the original mantel of the west parlor (see photo 9); and door openings in the front or north section were later given an architrave atop their framing members which are in the shape of Greek keys (see photo 7). Throughout the house are strategically placed ventilators which increase the circulation of air (see photo 7).

(continued)

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 type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input 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 1855

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Highland Hall is significant in being a relatively unchanged example of the surviving late Greek Revival country houses that flourished in Fayette County in the 1850s. Its lateness, according to Clay Lancaster, is "indicated by the looseness of the design and the use of double windows."¹ The structure is almost severe in form, yet it manages to combine simplicity with dignity. This quality bespeaks the function it served for many years as the residence for a large and profitable farm.

The land on which Highland Hall is built traces back to the Richland tract owned by the Shelby family and the house was possibly built by the grandson of Isaac Shelby, Kentucky's first governor. Tradition maintains that bricks for its construction were burned on the farm and that exterior and interior trim were made from walnut trees felled and seasoned for two years in a pond on the property.

Comfort was obviously considered in the plan: the east and west galleries seem to have been specially placed to take advantage of natural light and breezes, and the inside ventilators greatly aid the interior's flow of air.* Of special interest is the fact that "a photograph of Highland Hall went to the Philadelphia Centennial of 1876, illustrating 'a typical Kentucky home' that cost \$20,000 to build."²

Other houses of such late Greek Revival design in this region often tended to have Gothic Revival interior fittings. But Highland Hall's inside features fell prey to later Romantic trends in only one instance--this being a Victorian cast-iron mantel replacing the original one of the west parlor ca. 1870. The original interior features are simple in nature, but this is appropriate in respect to the exterior's well defined masses and lack of ornamentation.

¹ Clay Lancaster, Ante Bellum Houses of the Bluegrass (Lexington, Kentucky, University of Kentucky Press, 1961), p. 97.

²Ibid.

*In addition, the rooms are of fairly large proportions, rendering this rural house a certain feeling of grandeur, and are arranged in a functional manner.

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Highland Hall

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In essence, Highland Hall's exterior and interior are interrelated through modesty in design. Taken into consideration along with comfort was modesty in cost also. The use of native materials defrayed the expense involved in the house's construction, making it an ideal country residence of sorts twenty-one years later.

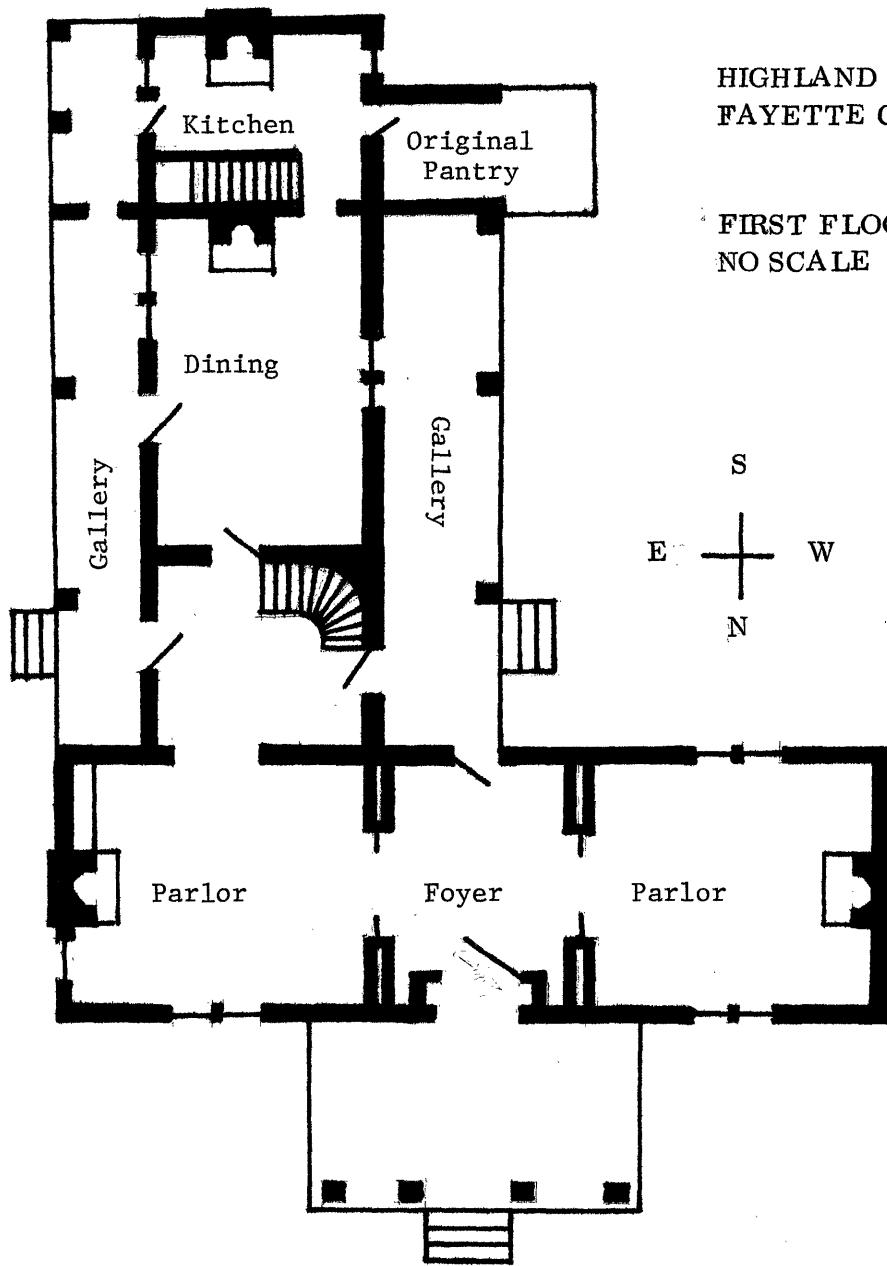
1
ONE HUNDRED



HIGHLAND HALL
FAYETTE COUNTY, KENTUCKY

FIRST FLOOR PLAN
NO SCALE

S
E
W
N



Highland Hall
Lexington
Fayette County
Kentucky

DEC 16 1977

Sketch plan by Dan Kidd,
April 1977, no scale.
Map 2. First floor plan of
Highland Hall.

