

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED NOV 11 1976
DATE ENTERED JUL 20 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 **

Three Gothic Villas (Helm-Gentry House, Mound Cottage, and Warrenwood)

AND/OR COMMON

Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Multiple Locations (see continuation sheet)

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Danville AND vicinity

VICINITY OF

06

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Kentucky

021

Boyle

021

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

X OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

X BUILDING(S)

X PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

X PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

X YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Multiple Owners (see continuation sheet)

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Boyle County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Danville

Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky

DATE

1971

FEDERAL X STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Kentucky Heritage Commission

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Frankfort

Kentucky

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The three Gothic villas, the Helm-Gentry House, Mound Cottage, and Warrenwood, are located within a three mile radius of Danville, a small community, surrounded by fertile bluegrass farmland. Modeled on designs for villas in the "pointed" style by A. J. Davis and A. J. Downing illustrated in Downing's book, The Architecture of Country Houses (1850), the three Boyle County houses follow Downing's advice for the setting of such villas: "A villa like this should have no common place, contracted or mean site. It should stand on a commanding locality, backed by fine wood, and overlooking a fine reach of picturesque but cultivated landscape" (p. 340).

The Helm-Gentry House

The Helm-Gentry house, built in 1852, is located one mile north of Danville on U.S. 127, or the Harrodsburg-Danville Road. Set back off the highway, the block-like house is shrouded by large trees. An inner fence sets off the house from the larger yard that contains numerous outbuildings of varying age. This semi-cultivated area in turn is fenced off from the surrounding farmland. The three-bay two-and-a-half-story house rests on a low stone foundation. A two-story kitchen ell (originally only one story high) extends off the rear toward the west. Squared tripartite chimneys with double slots rise high above the roofline. The brick is laid in common bond on all four sides.

The Helm-Gentry house is slightly smaller than Mound Cottage and Warrenwood and has only a steep gable centered in the facade. Located in the central bay is the simple main entrance, having long narrow sidelights and no molding above the door. Centered above the front entrance on the second story is a door opening onto the balcony with a large, traceried, pointed-arch window above. This pointed window was not repeated in the other two Danville houses. Snadon, in his thesis on Gothic Residences in Central Kentucky offers the following explanation: "The pointed arch, so attractive on the exterior, runs through the ceiling of the upstairs hall, and actually comes out in the attic above. The architect cunningly saved face from the exterior, by inserting colored glass in the upper portion of the opening" (p. 72). Located high in the central gable is an ornate trefoil opening that provides ventilation for the attic. A delicate one-story castiron porch, added in the 1870s, frames the central bay; Gothic (diminutive rose window tracery), Greek, and Rococo Revival motifs are fascinatingly combined in this unusually fine specimen.

The double windows have four-over-four pane sash with stone sills below, and label moldings decorated with raised linear patterns, above. Originally these labels turned outward at the bottom. The openings are flanked by large triple shutters. Plain modillions extend across the facade, while rhythmically cut-out bargeboards face the central and end gables. Unusual looping brackets are spaced under the eaves.

The floor plan and interior woodwork of the Helm-Gentry house is essentially Greek Revival. Four, four square rooms are located off a large central hall on both main floors. A fine Grecian staircase rises from the hall.

(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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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	Helm-Gentry House: 1852 Mound Cottage: 1856 Warrenwood: 1856	BUILDER/ARCHITECT
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Located in the immediate vicinity of Danville, a small prosperous town in the Central Bluegrass, are three Gothic villas constructed between 1852 and 1856 in what was then called the "pointed" style. Imposing brick structures, the Helm-Gentry House, Mound Cottage, and Warrenwood, are the best examples of the Gothic Revival style of architecture in Boyle County and were modeled after Elley Villa, Lexington, Fayette County, the finest example of the large Gothic villa in the State. (Loudoun and Ingleside, the two great castellated mansions in Lexington, are of a totally different type and scale.)

The architectural details of the individual houses vary slightly, but they appear to be based on A. J. Downing's design, "A Country House in the Pointed Style," or A. J. Davis' design for "A Villa in the Pointed Style," both of which are illustrated in Downing's pattern book, The Architecture of Country Houses (1850). Although the three houses are not identical copies of the sketches, they possess the symmetry and proportion characteristic of Downing's designs. (Elley Villa, Lexington, Fayette County, follows the patterns more closely.)

The builders or builder of the villas are unknown, but because of their similarity in style it is believed that the Boyle County houses were designed and built by the same architect. Mound Cottage is traditionally attributed to John McMurtry (1812-1890), a prominent Lexington architect who is accredited with the popularity of the Gothic Revival style of architecture in the Bluegrass. McMurtry's first building with Gothic motifs was constructed in 1837, and was not a visual success, although his churches were more effective. It was not until over a decade later, after the construction of A. J. Paris' Loudoun and the publication of Downing's County Residences, a tour of Europe, that McMurtry became more adept in the Gothic designs. He built a number of impressive Gothic houses in Lexington, including Elley Villa c. 1850. The Helm-Gentry house bears a strong resemblance to another house in Lexington, constructed by McMurtry in 1846. It is known that McMurtry was working in Danville in the 1850s because he was commissioned to build Jacobs Hall, the principal building of the Kentucky School for the Deaf in 1856 (see Jacob's Hall, Danville, Boyle County, listed on the National Register as a National Historic Landmark). On the other hand, the Greek Revival influence in the floor plans and interior woodwork of the houses, however, seems anachronistic for an architect as experienced in this style as McMurtry, who had designed Elley Villa in 1850. Because of this, it is believed possible that the houses were constructed by Robert Russell, Jr., a local Danville builder, who is attributed with the construction of most of the early brick structures in that town.

(continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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(continued)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 6

UTM REFERENCES
Helm-Gentry House

A	1,6	6,9,4,1,6,0	4,1,7,2,8,6,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C			

Mound Cottage

B	1,6	6,9,5,5,0,0	4,1,6,9,6,0,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Warrenwood

Lat. $37^{\circ} 37' 26''$ 27
Long. $84^{\circ} 46' 07''$ 07

(See map dated 5.19.77)

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

Mary Cronan-Oppel, Historian

WEL

ORGANIZATION

Kentucky Heritage Commission

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

104 Bridge Street

TELEPHONE

(502-564-3741)

CITY OR TOWN

Frankfort

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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Eldred W. Melton

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 11/5/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *Charles A. [Signature]* DATE 7/20/77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 6.14.77

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Helm-Gentry House

Centre College of Kentucky
Danville, Kentucky 40422

Mound Cottage

Mrs. Kathryn Snider
525 Maple Avenue
Danville, Kentucky 40422

Warrenwood

Mr. & Mrs. H. C. Abbott
P. O. Box 55
Junction City, Kentucky 40440

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None of the original outbuildings survive, although the foundation of a circular stone ice house remains evident. Several relatively old barns are located behind the house.

Mound Cottage

Mound Cottage is located one-half mile south of the Helm-Gentry house, on the old Harrodsburg Road which at this point becomes Maple Avenue. An expansive front lawn and large trees seclude the house from the road and its neighbors. Mound Cottage, the most elaborate of the Danville Gothic houses, is a three bay two-and-a-half-story brick structure with a one-story wing extending off the rear to the west. The brick is laid in Flemish bond in the front and common on the sides. Three gables, with more convincingly Gothic bargeboards than those of the Helm-Gentry house, are spaced symmetrically across the facade. The larger gable crowning the central bay projects forward slightly. Wide chimneys, with triple slots, soar above the roofline.

The second-story windows of the facade have triple casings with label moldings above, that conform to their varied height, tying them together. (An example of this can be seen in Davis' design for a Villa in the pointed style.) The openings on the first floor and on the sides are paired together under straight label lintels. The labels are more plastic than those on the Helm-Gentry house, but lack the linear patterns. All the window sashes are of quarrel-panes surrounded by rectangles. Wooden trim at the tops of the windows under the labels give the illusion of lancets. Trefoil designs are centered in the gables. Originally there were bay windows, filled with colored glass off each of the front rooms on the north and south side. In the early 1900s, however, the window on the south side was replaced by a porte-cochere, and the colored glass removed.

Snadon, in his thesis on Gothic houses in central Kentucky, describes the porch that spans the facade: "The porch of Mound Cottage is composed of octagonal posts, joined by wooden arches with elongated trefoil spandrels, and a "balustrade" or railing above, composed of diagonal members, the negative spaces of which are stylized

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trefoils" (p. 68). Originally the porch and all the exterior trim on the house would probably have been painted a dark color, instead the white that it is today, so that it would blend in with its surroundings. An old photograph of Mound Cottage confirms this belief.

The floor plan of Mound Cottage, like the Helm-Gentry house, is basically Greek Revival, having a central hall with two rooms off each side. However, there are some Gothic traits, in that the front hall has a ribbed ceiling and is turned into an octagonal shape by the insertion of forty-five degree angled corners housing pointed arch niches. The front room on the south has "castellated" door and window casings, enframed by octagonal posts. The woodwork in the remainder of the house is Greek Revival.

Warrenwood

Warrenwood, the third of the Boyle County Gothic villas, is located three miles south of Danville on the Hustonville Pike. Although the house stands on a commanding site, such as Downing recommends, the lack of trees and greenery around the house gives it a bold and stark appearance. Warrenwood is very similar to Mound Cottage, but is essentially a Greek Revival house with a Gothic exterior. It is a three-bay, two-and-a-half-story brick house on a stone foundation with a two-story ell extending off the rear to the east. The brick is laid in common bond on all four sides. Clustered chimneys, which were lowered eight feet during a recent restoration but remain immense, are spaced along the roofline.

Like Mound Cottage, Warrenwood is a triple-gable house with a larger central gable crowning the center bay which projects forward slightly. The front entrance is located in the central bay and has traceried sidelights and transom with a label molding above. Characteristic of a Greek Revival house, a door with traceried sidelights and transom, is centered directly above the front entrance. The sidelights stop below the transom which only extends over the door. The label molding above conforms to their height, like the second-story windows of Mound Cottage. The other openings are paired and the facade fenestration consists of quarrel-panes surrounded by rectangles. Trefoil designs are placed in the peak of the gables.

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A one-story porch, composed of octagonal posts with trefoil designs in the corners, spans the facade. A balustrade with spindles crowns the porch, but was probably altered during the 1970 renovation. It is believed that during the late 19th century the original one-story ell was raised to a full two stories and the rear balcony added.

The floor plan and woodwork of the house is Greek Revival. The layout is composed of four square rooms off a central hall with a staircase at the rear. Seemingly, only the wide folding doors that open onto the two front parlors reflect the Gothic influence (see photo 9). When the parlor doors are open it creates a large expanse and vista combining the north parlor, the central hall, and the south parlor. There are also two doors into the northeast diningroom from the north parlor flanking the chimneypieces. This arrangement is very similar to what A. J. Davis suggests for the floor plan of a villa in the "pointed" style:

Indeed, standing in the middle of the hall, almost the whole of this floor may be seen at a glance, by throwing open the large sliding doors which connect it with the principal apartments- an arrangement as agreeable and satisfactory to those who entertain and are fond of society in their country houses, as it would be displeasing and unsatisfactory to those who prefer a retired and quiet life (Downing, p. 340).

The Ionic columns, set inside the openings to the parlors, were added in the late 1800s. Similar columns and pilasters, raised on pedestals, essentially divide the hall in two. This interruption of space contradicts Davis' idea of open spaces and vistas, and probably would not have been included in the architect's original plan. It was also about 1900 that the three-flight staircase, located in the northeast corner of the hall, was altered. The original portion of the stair with a delicate Gothic railing still exists, however, from the second to the third floor, which is large but unfinished.

Built-in chests remain in the pantry area on the first floor and chests and cupboards are located in the rear wing on the second floor.

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Directly behind the house is a one-bay, two-and-a-half-story brick outbuilding which may have served as a kitchen/slave quarters or a kitchen/smokehouse. The first floor, which is built into the hillside, has two fireplaces. Located several hundred yards east of the house is an old frame barn with a log pen. The log portion could date back to the late 1780s when the Warren family first settled on the land.

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Helm-Gentry House

The Helm-Gentry house, the smallest of the three villas, was built between 1852 and 1854 for Thomas and Joseph Helm. In 1852 they purchased 380 acres, which included the site of the house. Two years later they sold the property for an increase of almost \$10,000, indicating that the house was probably built during this time. In the 1870s the house was sold for the third time to the Gentry family, respected Danville citizens. P. T. Gentry is listed as the owner on the 1876 Map of Boyle and Mercer Counties, Kentucky. He is also listed as a farmer and stock raiser. The house remained in the Gentry family until a few years ago.

Mound Cottage

Mound Cottage, the most detailed of the three houses and the one which most closely resembles Elley Villa, was built in 1856 for Jeremiah T. Boyle. Boyle, born in 1818 in Mercer County, Kentucky, was the son of Judge John Boyle, one of the most illustrious judges in Kentucky, for whom Boyle County was named. Jeremiah Boyle received an excellent education, being graduated from Princeton College in New Jersey and Transylvania Law School in Lexington, Kentucky. Upon completing his education he commenced the practice of law in Harrodsburg, Kentucky, nine miles north of Danville. When Boyle County was formed and Danville designated the county seat in 1842, J. T. Boyle relocated there, where he soon established a successful practice. Sometime after his move to Danville he married a daughter of Simeon Anderson, a prominent State congressman from Garrard County, and formed a partnership with his brother-in-law, William C. Anderson, until 1861.

Boyle was a vocal supporter of emancipation for slaves and with the outbreak of the Civil War, he raised a regiment for the Union army. In 1862 he was promoted to a brigadier-general, for meritorious conduct on the field. Shortly afterward he was placed in charge of the direction of the military affairs of the State. Although Boyle served in this position with distinction, he resigned after several years because of the unpleasant nature of his duties.

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After the war he moved to Louisville where he was instrumental in the introduction of street railways in that city. In 1864 along with seven other prominent citizens, he established the Louisville City Railway Company. Boyle was the most influential and was made president of the organization. Several years later he, with a group of others, purchased the Evansville, Henderson, and Nashville Railroad. Under Boyle's direction as President the railroad was completed and became an important link between railway systems of the Southern and Northwestern States. A contemporary biography describes him:

He was a man of great firmness of character, engaged with enthusiasm in whatever he undertook, and seldom failed in his purpose; had extraordinary administrative ability; was quick in his impulses, hasty in forming his judgement, but ever ready to forget and forgive; was generous and charitable to a fault, assisting unsparingly those in need; and, in his private life, was strongly attached to the domestic circle, of which he was the life (Armstrong, 1878, pp. 420-421).

J. T. Boyle died in Louisville of apoplexy in July 1871.

In the late 1800s Mound Cottage was owned by Reverend T. M. Vaughn, a Baptist minister.

Warrenwood

Warrenwood, located three miles south of Danville, was built in 1856 by John Fouche Warren and Samuel Warren. The Warrens were the sons of Captain William Warren, one of the earliest settlers in the area, who established a station prior to 1784, about a mile south of the present house (the station is located on John Filson's 1784 map of Kentucky). Warren owned much of the land along the present Hustonville Pike, and was instrumental in its construction.

The Warren family moved several times before locating on the present site in 1856. Samuel Warren, a co-builder of the house, owned and operated a drug store in Danville. Little is known about his brother John.

William Warren, the last member of the Warren family to own the property, died in the early 1900s. He was a successful merchant and farmer and, according to Fackler, "Long the able president of the Danville and Hustonville Turnpike Company."

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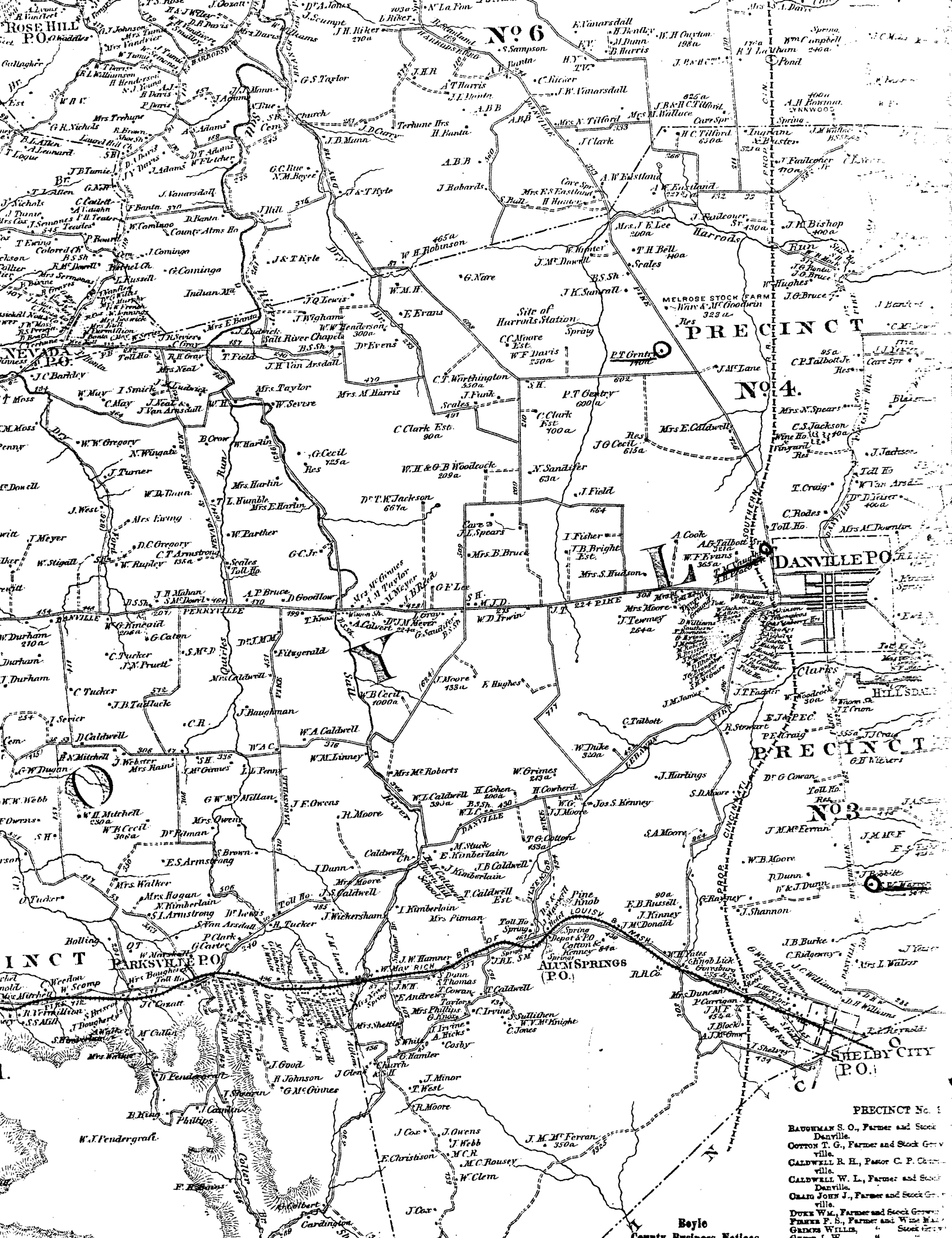
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No. 6

No. 4

No. 3

DANVILLE P.O.

PARKSVILLE P.O.

ALUM SPRINGS (P.O.)

SHELBY CITY P.O.

PRECINCT No. 1

- BAUGHMAN S. O., Farmer and Stock
- Danville
- COTTON T. G., Farmer and Stock
- Grav
- CALDWELL R. H., Pastor C. P. Church
- ville
- CALDWELL W. L., Farmer and Stock
- Danville
- ORAN JOHN J., Farmer and Stock
- ville
- DUKE W. L., Farmer and Stock
- Grav
- PINKER F. S., Farmer and Wife
- MARY
- GRANDS WILLS, " " " "
- Stock
- ville

Boylston
County Business Edition

Three Gothic Villas
Danville
Boyle County
Kentucky

Map of Boyle & Mercer Counties, Ky.
Philadelphia: D. G. Beers & Co.
1876

JUL 20 1977

