Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74) NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# **NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

Frankfort

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INVENTORY	NOMINATION	FORM DATE	ENTERED MA	<u>R 2 0 19<b>78</b> </u>
SEE IN	STRUCTIONS IN HOW T			S
1 NAME	TIPE ALL ENTRIES	COMPLETE AFFLICAD	LE SECTIONS	
HISTORIC Three Greek Re	vival Houses of Merce	r County: Lynnwood	, Walnut Hall, Gle	nworth
AND/OR COMMON				•
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6 REPRESENT	TATION IN EXIST	ING SURVEYS		
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#### CONDITION

\_\_DETERIORATED

\_\_UNALTERED

**CHECK ONE** 

XEXCELLENT XGOOD

XFAIR

\_\_RUINS

\_\_UNEXPOSED

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MOVED DATE

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Within an approximate five-mile radius of Harrodsburg, Kentucky, are three Greek Revival houses that bear similar traits. Each of these sites--Lynnwood (1850), Walnut Hall (ca. 1850), and Glenworth (1848)--was erected and continues to serve as a farm residence. The location of the structures is in the earliest settled area of the state (Harrodsburg, established in 1775, is Kentucky's oldest town). Mercer County has retained its rural flavor and importance as an agricultural center.

Physical description of the three houses are as follows:

#### Lynnwood

Lynnwood, built in 1850, is the residence for a productive farm and is set among a group of mature trees of various species (see photo 1). This house's location is less than one-half mile west of Kentucky Highway 33 near the Mercer and Boyle Counties border. Danville is five miles to the south and Burgin is approximately two miles north.

This two-story late Greek Revival residence faces south and is essentially a rectangular mass with later additions on the east and northwest. The centered entrance on the three-bay main facade has sidelights and a transom, and is recessed behind a frontispiece consisting of pilaster shafts and free-standing Ionic columns in antis. These columns support an entablature whose frieze is treated with the Greek honeysuckle motif in relief.

Lynnwood's main facade is laid in Flemish bond, while the sides are laid in Flemish double-stretcher bond. The masonry rests on a well-executed foundation of granite. Windows piercing the main facade have triple lights and, like those on the sides, are surmounted by wooden heads accented with pediments and corner blocks (see photos 1 and 2).

The central bay is sheltered by a pedimented tetrastyle portico that achieves the same height as the main mass's hipped roof. Corners are treated with coupled pilasters, and the continuous entablature is heavy and unadorned. The sides of the main mass are four bays long and all chimneys are built into the walls.

The first floor's main section consists of a wide transverse hall flanked by two rooms on each side--each chamber measuring twenty feet square. Above the later high dado of the hall is wallpaper, added in the 1900s, that depicts romantic landscapes in colors that remain exceptionally fresh (see photos 3 and 4). All door openings of the hall have battered sidepieces and Lafever-inspired crestings atop the cornices (see photo 3).

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW					
—PREHISTORIC —1400-1499 —1500-1599 —1600-1699 —1700-1799 —1800-1899 —1900-	_ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC _ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC XAGRICULTURE _ARCHITECTURE _ART XCOMMERCE _COMMUNICATIONS	COMMUNITY PLANNING CONSERVATION ECONOMICS EDUCATION ENGINEERING EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT INDUSTRY	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE LAW LITERATURE MILITARY MUSIC PHILOSOPHY POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	RELIGION SCIENCE SCULPTURE SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN THEATER TRANSPORTATION OTHER (SPECIFY)		
SPECIFIC DATES BUILDER/ARCHITECT						

Located in Mercer County, and within an approximate five-mile radius of Harrodsburg, are three Greek Revival farm residences built ca. 1850. These houses achieve distinction through associations with persons prominent on the local, state, and

national levels. Architectural merit is attained through their being outstanding examples of the Greek Revival style as employed in residences in the central part of the state.

Each house has its own distinct features, yet despite this fact and despite their differing dates of erection and locations in the county, numerous similarities are shared by all three. No builder or architect's name has surfaced, but the same hand may have been connected with the design of each. If not, the source of inspiration must surely have been the same. The most noticeable similarities are the masses, floor plans, porticos, and entrance treatments.

In each instance, the portico shelters only the entrance bay, and employs unfluted Ionic columns that are paired. Also, each portico's pediment achieves the same height as the hipped roof. These may have been influenced by Waveland (1845-57) in neighboring Fayette County (entered on the National Register August 12, 1971). The shafts of Waveland's portico, however, are taller and thinner, and are so closely paired that the volutes almost touch. Those of the Mercer County houses are in a more pleasing response with their respective mass and main facade openings, and they represent this style's maturity in Bluegrass residences.

The frontispieces framing the entrances of Lynnwood, Walnut Hall, and Glenworth provide another source of similarity. In each example, there are flat pilasters and Ionic columns in antis supporting an entablature whose frieze is taken from the Erechtheum by way of Minard Lafever's The Modern Builder's Guide. The number of panes in the transoms and sidelights varies, but the effect is the same. Again, the influence for these similar frontispieces may have come from Waveland, where the volutes are more pronounced and the whole composition is narrower. Three-part windows characteristic of the late Greek Revival appear in varying degrees on each house.

#### 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES Atlas of Boyle and Mercer Counties, Kentucky. Philadelphia: D. G. Beers & Co., 1876. Beckner, Lucien. "Reverend John D. Shane's Notes on an Interview with Elijah Folev of Favette County." The Filson Club History Quarterly (Volume XI, 1937) pp. 253-250, (continued) 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA (see continuation sheet) ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY UTM REFERENCES ZONE ZONE D VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES STATE CODE CODE COUNTY STATE CODE COUNTY CODE TIFORM PREPARED BY NAME / TITLE Daniel Kidd, Architectural Historian; Mary Cronan Oppel, Historian DATE ORGANIZATION Kentucky Heritage Commission December 1977 STREET & NUMBER TELEPHONE 104 Bridge Street 564-3741 CITY OR TOWN STATE Kentucky Frankfort **P**ISTATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS: STATE LOCAL \_\_\_ NATIONAL \_\_\_\_ 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 TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

FOR NPS USE ONLY I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER ATTEST DATE Form No. 10-300a (Rev. 10-74)

## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Three Greek Revival Houses of Mercer County

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Lynnwood - one-half mile west of Kentucky Highway 33 near border of Mercer and Boyle Counties

Walnut Hall - located off Warwick Pike and Munday's Landing, five miles north of Harrodsburg

Glenworth - 1700 feet west of Buster Pike, one-and-one-half miles southwest of Burgin

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Lynnwood - Jake and Ruth Watson, P. O. Box 397, Danville, KY 40422

Walnut Hall - Howard Gregory, Warwick Pike, Harrodsburg, KY

Glenworth - Mr. and Mrs. Zack Ison, Buster Pike, Burgin, KY 40310

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The double parlors on the east are connected by tall sliding doors whose entablature is supported by a screen of two Ionic columns on each side (see photo 5). The parlors mantels, like those of the drawing and dining rooms, consist of a pedimented frieze flanked by flat pilasters (see photo 3). Around 1900, a conservatory was added on the east, and a window in each parlor was transformed into a French door to provide access.

At the hall's northern end is a "half-turn with landings" staircase whose balusters are decoratively turned in a series of three manners (see photo 4). On the northeast is an open one-story gallery (see photo 2). On the northwest is a one-bay, two-story brick wing whose first level contains a kitchen, a hall, a cloak room (recently transformed into a bath), and an open staircase with heavy newels and an ascending dado (see photo 6). This wing replaced an earlier section that burned prior to 1900.

The second floor of the original portion contains four bedrooms and a central hall. Woodwork is relatively inornate; baseboards are lower than those of the first floor and crestings atop door cornices are absent (see photo 7). Except for the installation of bathrooms and the modernization of the kitchen, Lynnwood has changed little since 1900. This spacious residence is in good condition; the interior woodwork is in an excellent state of preservation, and the original white ash flooring is intact throughout.

To the immediate north is a one-and-one-half-story manager's house (see photo 8). Built ca. 1900, this T-shaped dwelling has a board-and-batten exterior and consists of two rooms on each level. Another ca. 1900 erection of the same material is a horse barn to the northwest (see photo 9). The eastern half is gabled while the western half is covered by a hipped roof. Piercing the shingled gable above the entrance is a segmentally arched window containing five lights. Three hipped dormers project from the upper level and they, like the gables, are sided with shingles.

#### Walnut Hall

Walnut Hall is located on a flat plain in rural Mercer County, approximately five miles north of Harrodsburg. Shawnee Springs (entered on the National Register July 19, 1976) is less than two miles north, and the New Providence Presbyterian Church (entered on the National Register October 10, 1977) is two and one-half miles to the

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Built ca. 1850, Walnut Hall is a farm residence near two county roads, the Warwick Pike and Mundy's Landing, and is visible from both.

The main facade (see photo 10) faces west and is five bays wide. The centered entrance is recessed and is framed by a frontispiece adapted from Plate 9 of Lafever's The Modern Builder's Guide (1833). All windows but one are sash with six-over-six panes and have splayed brick arches above. The exception is the window above the entrance, which has three lights. The central bay is served by a pedimented tetrastyle portico of the Ionic order, and there is a continuous boxed cornice.

The south wall (see photo II) is unfenestrated while the north's main mass (see photo I2) has four bays. Three of the first floor windows on this side are blind. covered by a hipped roof, and the two chimneys on each end are built into the walls. The foundation is of cleanly cut granite blocks, and the brick masonry is laid in Flemish bond on the north and west, that is, on the sides facing roads.

Spanning the rear (see photo II) is a double gallery supported by three square columns of brick. The north side of the gallery is enclosed by brick and contains a door with sidelights and a blind window above (see photo 12). Also at this end is a "dog leg" staircase connecting the gallery's two levels. The balustrade of the first level has been removed, but that of the shed-roofed second level is intact.

At the northwest (see photos ll and l2) is a semi-detached, gable-roofed building of two stories. Two kitchens were on the first level and servants' quarters were Entry to the former kitchens is from either the gallery or from the south. This service building originally had a double gallery on the south that provided access between the rooms below and above. This gallery was removed at an undetermined time, but is presently being reconstructed.

The transverse hall of Walnut Hall is flanked by two rooms on either side. on the south are double parlors and are connected by paneled double doors (see photo 13). Like all other first-floor openings, these are framed by a shouldered architrave surmounted by a cornice strip (see photos 13 and 14). eastern end of the hall is a "half-turn with landings" staircase (see photo 14) with

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hand-railing and thin balusters of cherry. A second staircase is enclosed and provides the only access to the chamber above the sitting room (see floor plan). An interesting feature of this staircase is its wallpaper which appears to date from the time of Walnut Hall's erection.

Mantels of the first floor correspond with the treatment of window and door openings. Two of these are marbleized (see photo 15). All woodwork except that of the dining room (transformed into a kitchen) is of walnut and is intact. The service building has been altered many times and the house is in poor condition. Both, however, are undergoing a sympathetic restoration.

#### Glenworth

Glenworth, a Greek Revival residence constructed in 1848, is located 1700 feet east of Buster Pike in rural Mercer County. Burgin is approximately one and one-half miles northeast and Harrodsburg is five miles northwest. The house is an impressive sight from Buster Pike and has a long straight appreach from this direction. The surrounding farmland is fertile and characterized by flatness.

Glenworth (see photo 16) faces west and is three bays wide. A pedimented tetrastyle portico envelops the central bay, and the entrance is recessed behind a frontispiece This opening is flanked by three-part windows that with two columns in antis. have flat wooden lintels at their heads and sills. All other windows are sash with Those on the main facade's second level are more pronounced as six-over-six panes. a result of cornice strips atop their lintels. Glenworth is of brick construction with the west side being laid in Flemish bond--all other sides in common. The corners have coupled pilasters.

All chimneys are built into the walls and have corbelled caps. Wrought iron cresting surmounts the hipped roof of low pitch, and there is a heavy but unadorned entablature on all sides. Originally, a four-bay double gallery spanned the rear. This has been enclosed (see photo 17) by the current owners, but a straight flight of steps connecting the gallery's two levels has been retained (see floor plan).

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At the northwest (see photo 17) is a gable-roofed kitchen that has two doors opening onto the former gallery and a third door on the south. This section remains in use as a kitchen and its large fireplace centered on the east survives.

The transverse hall contains a "half-turn with landings" staircase at the east (see photo 18) and has two rooms on either side. The rooms on the south are connected by sliding doors whose heavy entablature is supported by four fluted Ionic columns arranged in two screens. All mantels of the first floor are similar; each features a narrow shelf supported by three consoles with wide grooves (see photo 19). The mantels in the dining and sitting rooms are flanked by presses. The hall openings have paneled jambs and are treated with shouldered architraves that are proportionally heavy and are topped with cornice strips (see photos 18 and 19). In addition, these door pieces have relief carvings in their friezes that are naive and may have been executed by a slave (see photo 20).

There was an enclosed staircase in the dining room (labeled C on floor plan) leading to a single chamber above, but this has been removed. Centerpieces adapted from Plate 21 of Lafever's <u>The Beauties of Modern Architecture</u> adorn the ceilings of the hall and dining room (see photo 21), and brightly colored stained glass was inserted into several openings in 1896.

The second floor's arrangement is like that of the first, and the hall of this level is 17 feet high. Openings of this floor are framed by shouldered architrave moldings that are lighter than those of the first floor. Mantels are similar to those below, but a noticeable difference is the smaller size of the consoles (see photo 22). The attic is an ample space that was formerly used for meat storage. Presently, Glenworth is in good condition—essentially all interior woodwork survives, and the original ash flooring is intact throughout.

A fine assemblage of outbuildings is still in existence (see photo 23). Arranged in a row (see site location of structures) are an octagonal supply house of brick, a meat

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house constructed of logs and later covered with clapboarding, frame poultry houses, and slave quarters of logs later clapboarded on the exterior and plastered inside. Each of these is covered with a hipped roof of steep pitch, and is contemporary with the construction of Glenworth. Also constructed in 1848 is a conical icehouse to the northeast that is covered with wooden shakes (see photo 24). Later structures built in the early 1920s are a gazebo immediately south of the house (see photo 17), a frame one- and-one-half-story manager's house to the north (see photo 25), a training barn to the far east that has a gable projection on each side and a long hip-roofed monitor and a gable-roofed, board-and-batten tool shop that has a shed-roofed extension (see photo 26).

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The room arrangements of the Mercer County residences are typically Greek Revival--consisting on each level of four rooms of equal size bisected by a transverse hall. Those rooms to the right of the first floor's hall are double parlors that virtually become one upon opening the connecting double (in Walnut Hall) or sliding (in Glenworth and Lynnwood) doors. Also common among the original layout of these houses is a semi-detached kitchen linked to the main area by a gallery.

In addition to the frontispieces shared by all three, features taken from Minard Lafever books include the plaster centerpieces of Glenworth and the cornice enrichments of Lynnwood's first-floor hall openings. Lafever's books had a profound influence on Kentucky architecture, and he "achieved, through his borrowings from the antique, designs that often showed great beauty and sensitivity" (Lancaster, Ante Bellum Houses of the Bluegrass, p. 82).

In the <u>History of Mercer and Boyle Counties</u> (published in 1924 by <u>The Harrodsburg Herald</u>), Maria T. Daviess mentions Lynnwood, Walnut Hall, and Glenworth as being fine specimens in Mercer County of structures classed in "the Bank or Church order, the large columns giving them the appearance of such buildings (p. 114)." She praises the persons for whom these and other houses were built, and states:

They showed sound sense and foresight in building. Handsome as some of these houses are and as comfortable as they all are, the designers of them were not seized with such passion for "gorgeous palaces and cloud-capped towers," as to invest, as the manner of some is, the whole of their capital in a mass of architecture that they cannot justly devise to one heir, and that could not probably be sold for cost of material when death should make a sale necessary for the distribution of the estate (pp. 114-115).

The historical background of the individual sites is as follows:

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#### Lynnwood

Situated an eighth of a mile north of Boyle County line in eastern Mercer County, is Lynnwood, built in 1850 by Abram Hite Bowman. Bowman, born in 1819, was the son of John Bowman (1787-1873), a prominent lawyer who had studied law under Henry Clay. He had also served in the War of 1812 and was one of the founders of Bacon College in Georgetown, Kentucky, which eventually merged with Transylvania University in Lexington (Wayland, p. 171).

Abram Bowman, a wealthy planter, received the land on which the house was built, from his father around 1847. In a letter to his brother-in-law, Charles Tomlinson, dated 1848, Bowman states: 'I have commenced the foundation of my house. We have five masons at work, cutting rock, and I think when you return and see it you will say it surpasses anything of the kind in the West.'' In an 1887 account, the house is decribed as a mansion and as 'one of the best in Mercer County'' (Perrin, p. 985). Lynnwood is also cited by Winston Coleman in Slavery Times in Kentucky (p. 19) as being an excellent example of the type of residences large plantation and slave holders were building in the antebellum period.

Upon Bowman's death around 1877, his heirs sold the property to Dr. William O. Robards. Robards, born in 1830 in Jessamine County, began the study of medicine in 1851 in Nicholasville, under a Dr. J. P. Letcher. He later attended Transylvania University. Upon graduation he developed a successful practice in western Boyle County. In 1877 he bought Lynnwood and 333 acres of land. At this time he limited his practice of medicine and devoted most of his time to farming (Perrin, p. 985).

After the death of Dr. Robards, the house was sold to John P. Starks, a Louisville resident, who bought it as a summer home. Starks, a native of Woodford County, organized real estate firms in Midway, Frankfort, and Lexington at different periods between 1872 to 1909. In 1909 he devoted all of his time to the Starks Realty Co. which he founded in Louisville. In 1912 he purchased property, at the northeast corner of Fourth and Walnut Streets, Louisville, and erected the Starks building. In 1925 an addition to the building was constructed, making it, at that time, the largest office building in the South (Owens, p. 166).

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nporch was added to the eas

It was during Starks ownership of Lynnwood that the sunporch was added to the east side of the main block and the two-story wing to the rear. In addition he constructed the summer cottage behind the main house and the stable.

#### Walnut Hall

Walnut Hall was built ca. 1850 by David W. Thompson. Thompson (1816-1865), a native of Mercer County, was a successful planter. Upon his death in 1865 he left the house and 287 acres of farmland to his daughter, Sue Helm (b. 1842). Miss Thompson married James Lewis Neal (b. 1832) of Jessamine County, in 1866 and they continued to reside in the house. According to a contemporary biography, Neal was a farmer and stock raiser (Perrin, p. 957).

#### Glenworth

Glenworth, located a few miles northwest of Lynnwood on Buster Pike, was built in 1848 by Robert Mosby Davis. Although there are no contemporary accounts of Davis, it is evident that he was extremely wealthy, in order for him to have built the huge residence. According to tradition, Robert Davis was deeded the land by his uncle, Robert Mosby, in an agreement to care for Mosby in his old age.

The land on which Glenworth was constructed was initially owned by the Robards family, who resided in an earlier structure. One of the members of the family was Lewis 'Robards married to Rachel Donaldson, daughter of Colonel John Donaldson, the founder of Nashville. The couple resided on the farm. Rachel Donaldson Robards was to become Mrs. Andrew Jackson. Although the facts concerning Rachel Robards' and Jackson's meeting and elopement are unclear, it is known that the circumstances around their marriage were to haunt Jackson's career, and were the basis for several duels in defense of Rachel's honor.

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Robert Mosby acquired the land through marriage to Jane Robards, Lewis' sister. In 1844, Mosby deeded the property to his nephew, Robert Mosby Davis, the builder of the house. On the 1876 Atlas of Boyle and Mercer Counties, Kentucky, the owner is listed as Mrs. Davis. In 1879, 220 acres and the house were sold to the Campbell family.

Charles W. Gaitskill, born in 1848 in Clark County, acquired the farm in 1888. Gaitskill was engaged in the foundry business in Lexington, where he resided in the winter, while living at Glenworth in the summer. At this time the estate was described as being "highly improved and well watered land, and yielding an abundance of fruit. The farm is known as the Davis Place, and the mansion is almost palatial" (Perrin, p. 125). Glenworth passed through several owners between 1893 to 1905, when it was purchased by Allen S. Edelen. Edelen, a breeder of thoroughbred and saddlebred horses, as well as Jersey cattle, built a large stable, dairy barn, and a manager's cottage. In 1927 when Edelen sold the property, the sales brochure described the estate as follows:

As a thoroughbred plant Glenworth Farms cannot be excelled in Kentucky as nature had equipped her for the production of runners. Blue Grass, limestone water, drainage, location, shipping facilities, hard roads and highways for trucking mares and colts, railway facilities. With the telephone, telegraph, radio, office for records, mails, barns, the finest construction in the state, paddock, waterworks with water inexhaustible. With the home for entertaining guests and patrons, no plant excels Glenworth Farms.

All of the outbuildings mentioned in the brochure remain intact and in fair condition. The land has continued to be farmed, although not on as an extensive scale.

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Glenworth

16/695960/4178520

4 acres approximately

Lynnwood

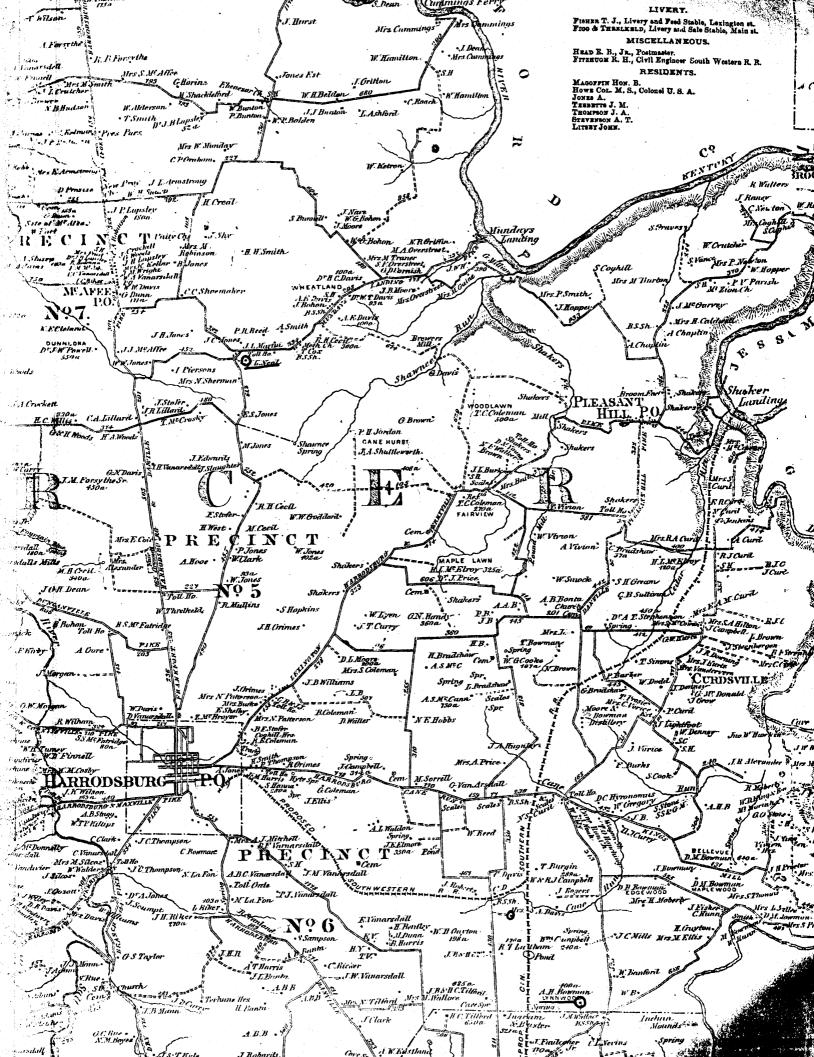
16/697180/4176760

2 1/2 acres approximately

Walnut Hall

16/691480/4189460

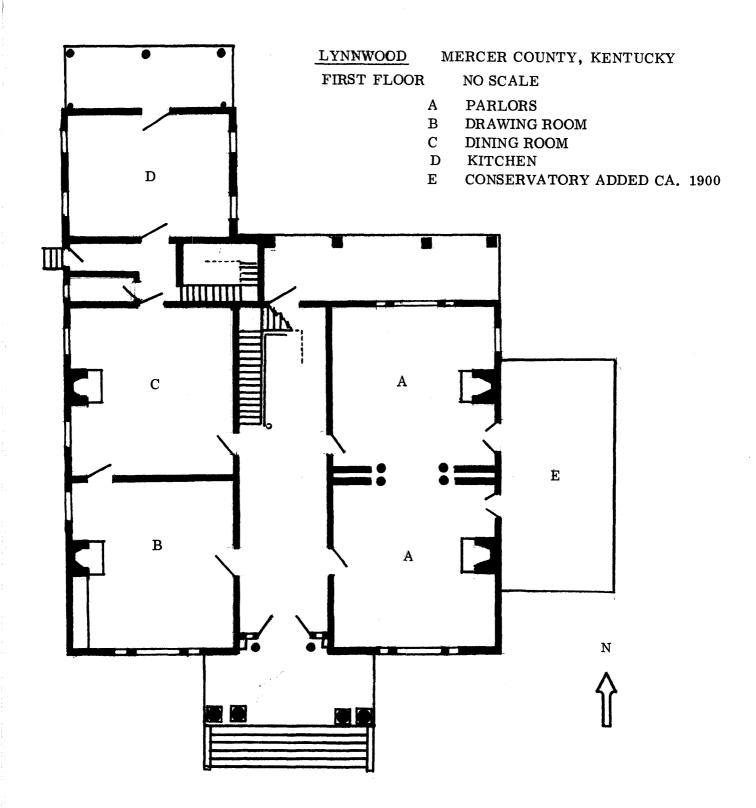
1 acre approximately



Three Greek Revival Houses Mercer County JAN 171978 Kentucky

Atlas of Boyle and Mercer Counties, Kentucky. Philadelphia: D. G. Beers and Co., 1876. Map 3. Houses circled in red.

MAR 3 0 1978



Three Greek Revival Houses Mercer County Kentucky

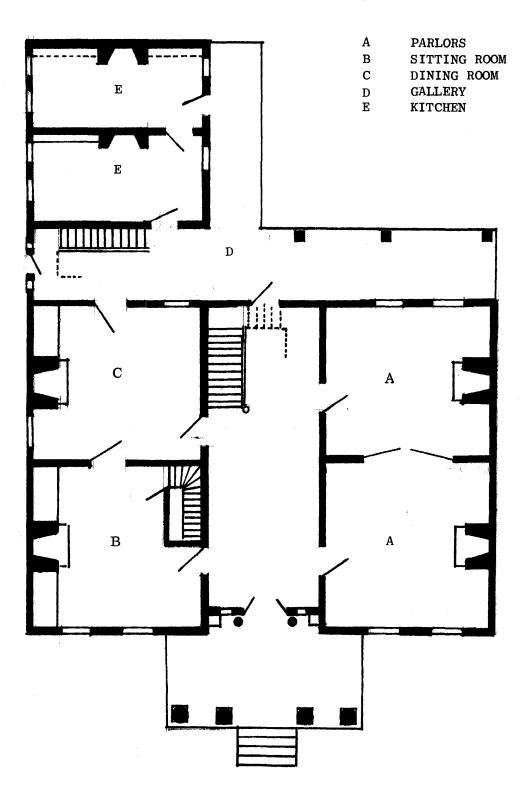
JAN 171978

Sketch Plan, No Scale
Man 4. Shot-1 Map 4. Sketch plan of first floor, Lynnwood.



WALNUT HALL
MERCER COUNTY, KENTUCKY

FIRST FLOOR NO SCALE

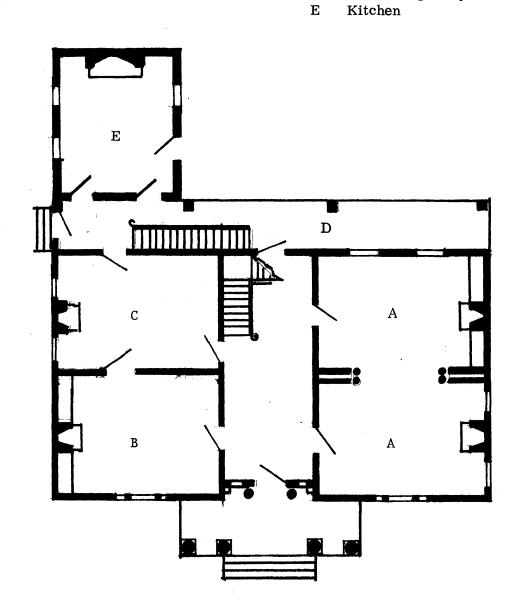


Three Greek Revival House Mercer County JAN 171978

Dan Kidd, 1977 Sketch Plan, No Scale Map 5. Walnut Hall, first floor sketch plan.

# GLENWORTH MERCER COUNTY, KENTUCKY FIRST FLOOR NO SCALE

A ParlorsB Sitting roomC Dining roomD Enclosed gallery



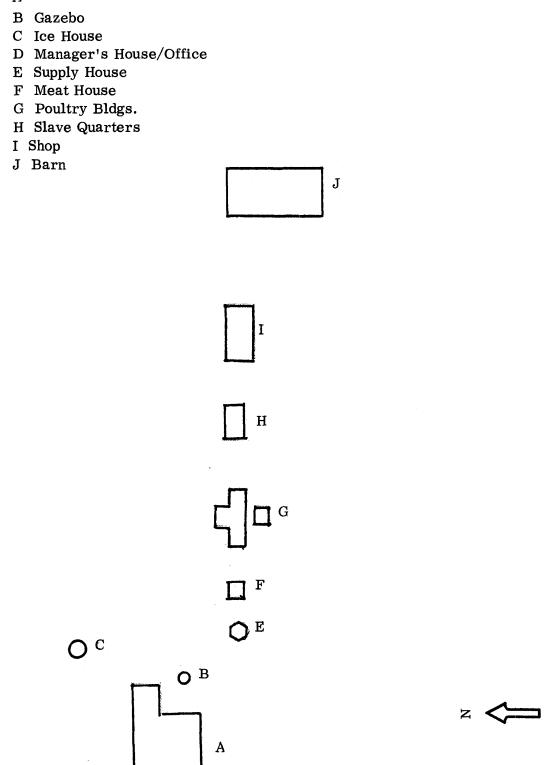
Three Greek Revival Houses Mercer County Kentucky MAR 30 1978

Dan Kidd, 1977 JAN 171978 Sketch Plan, No Scale Map 6. Glenworth, first floor sketch plan.

# GLENWORTH MERCER COUNTY, KENTUCKY SITE LOCATION OF STRUCTURES NO SCALE

A Glenworth

 $\mathbf{D}$ 



Three Greek Revival Houses Mercer County MAR 30 1978 Kentucky

JAN 171978

Dan Kidd, 1977 Sketch Plan, No Scale Map 7. Glenworth, site location of structures.