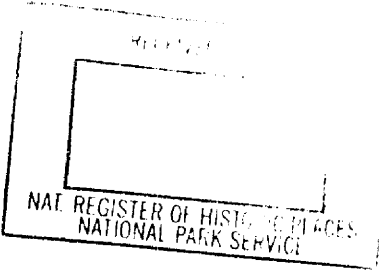


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

915



1. Name of Property

historic name Berry, George F., House
other names/site number Berry Hill Mansion; Juniper Hills, FR-F-7

2. Location

street & number 700 Louisville Road not for publication N/A city or town Frankfort vicinity N/A
state Kentucky code KY county Franklin code 073 zip code 40601

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

David L. Morgan 6-18-02
Signature of certifying official David L. Morgan, SHPO Date

 Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the
National Register
- See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the
National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain):

Edson R. Bull 9-6-02

Signature of Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure
	<input type="checkbox"/> object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u> buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u>1</u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u>2</u>	<u>2</u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

Name of related multiple property N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

Cat: Domestic Sub: Single Dwelling

Current Functions:

Cat: Commerce/Trade Sub: Business
Government Government Office

7. Description

Architectural Classification Colonial Revival

Materials

foundation	<u>Stone</u>
roof	<u>Terra Cotta</u>
walls	<u>Stone</u>

See continuation sheet.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

- A owned by religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Period of Significance 1900, 1912

Significant Dates 1900, 1912

Significant Person N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Dodd, William J.
Cobb, Arthur
McDonald, Kenneth

Areas of Significance Architecture

Narrative Statement of Significance See continuation sheets.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- prelim. Determ. of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Division of Historic Properties

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 37 acres

UTM References	Zone Easting	Northing	Zone Easting	Northing	Frankfort West Quad
	1) 16 685 260	4228 760	3) 16 685 680	4228 390	
	2) 16 685 660	4228 720	4) 16 685 280	4228 300	

Verbal Boundary Description The boundary of the George F. Berry House and estate is shown on the accompanying map entitled George F. Berry House and Estate. Map is keyed to indicate contributing and non-contributing property.

Boundary Justification The boundary includes the mansion, carriage house, Gazebo, and surrounding grounds that retain their historic integrity. The Butler Building located directly behind the main house has also been illustrated and is indicated as a non-contributing property. This building will be removed during 2002 and the lawn will be restored.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Joan House-Salley Historic Preservation Specialists
Organization Kentucky Division of Historic Properties
Date April 12, 2002
street & number 700 Louisville Rd telephone 502-564-3000 x226
city or town Frankfort state KY zip code 40601

Property Owner

name Commonwealth of Kentucky
street & number 700 Louisville Rd. telephone 502-564-3000 x226
city or town Frankfort state KY zip code 40601

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 1

George F. Berry House
Franklin County, Kentucky

Description of Physical Appearance
George F. Berry House
Frankfort, Kentucky

The George F. Berry House (FR-F-7) located at 700 Louisville Road Frankfort, Kentucky was constructed in 1900 with a music room added in 1912. The original house design is attributed to William J. Dodd and Arthur Cobb of Louisville. The music room design is attributed to William J. Dodd and Kenneth McDonald. The 22-room, two-story stone mansion with the façade oriented toward the southwest. The stone was quarried at the estate and from it the mansion walls were constructed with widths exceeding two feet. The roof is now covered with terra cotta tiles; however, information has recently surfaced indicating that the original shingles were made from cypress. The structure rests on a solid stone foundation, which provides for a large basement. Fenestration is all original to the structure and intact.

The main structure was completed in the Colonial Revival Style with additional Richardsonian Romanesque characteristics. Included among these distinct characteristics are large arches completed in heavy ashlar stone voussoirs and short thick columns that support the second floor balcony on the structure's southern elevation. The north elevation contains a long, columned piazza that is reminiscent of English country estates.

The structure's service area is connected to the house by a 25' covered colonnade. Both the colonnade and wash house are part of the original 1900 construction. This colonnade terminates at a low eave; that one-story structure is completed in stone and echoes the main house's style. This structure originally served as the servant's quarters and laundry.

The house is a central hall plan with rooms on either side. The main façade faces to the South. The central hallway was constructed with large entrances containing mahogany doors with sidelights and fanlight at both front and rear. These appointments still remain intact and are in good condition. The original door casings and the decorative casing associated with the staircase are still intact. The main staircase, which is to the left side of the central hall, is still present and in excellent condition. A large leaded glass Venetian window that is adorned with a floral motif crowns the staircase's main landing.

Additionally, on the central hall's left side a narrow hallway accomplished in tongue-and-groove connects the original kitchen to the rest of the structure. Contained within this hallway is a service staircase that still remains. The kitchen is in good condition and retains its historic fabric with the exception of a drop ceiling that was added during the 1980s. The dining room and butler's pantry is also located to the left of the central hall.

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Section 7 Page 2

George F. Berry House
Franklin County, Kentucky

Both of these rooms retain their original historic fabric complete with the built-in cabinets constructed in the butler's pantry. The dining room retains its original fireplace mantle as well as an alcove where the Berry's sideboard resided. A dish rail is present above that alcove.

The library resides to the right of the central hall. This room, completed in Flemish oak, is in remarkable condition. The wainscoting is intact and in excellent condition. The room retains the original fireplace mantel and built-in bookcases. The library originally contained tapestries that were hung on the walls above the oak wainscoting. Three of the original tapestries remain in that room. The drawing room is located next to the library and to the right of the central hallway. The dining room, library and drawing room can be closed from the central hall by pocket doors. The drawing room retains its original mantle and casings as well. This room was originally the music room; however, in 1912 a Gothic Revival music room was added and a small vestibule was added between the drawing room and music room.

The Gothic music room is perhaps the most impressive feature contained within the house. It is completed entirely of hand carved oak panels. Family tradition holds that 2 European wood carvers labored for over 2 years in order to complete the room. The large stone fireplace and hearth are still intact. Large leaded glass windows adorned with red juniper tree crests add light and depth to the area. Two large alcoves are present in the room and the remnants of the red velvet drape that once where used to close them still remains. Original plaster sconces with the red juniper motif are still present and in working order. The room was finished with a Hillgreen, Lane and Company cathedral organ. While the organ no longer functions, it appears to be in remarkably good condition.

The structure's second story served as the living quarters for the family. The main staircase empties onto the second floor and immediately to its right is a large sitting area. A long hallway extends the length of this floor and lends access to each of the suites. There are three large bedrooms on this floor. The two largest bedrooms are located to the left of the hall and are separated by a sitting room. Each of these bedrooms is adjoined by dressing rooms with built-in cabinets and bathrooms. The majority of the

bathrooms on the second floor retain their original tile work and some retain original fixtures. To the right of the hallway is another large suite that includes a bedroom, dressing room and bathroom. On the structure's East End a sleeping porch was constructed when the music room was added in 1912. It is of octagonal shape

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 3

George F. Berry House
Franklin County, Kentucky

and retains the majority of its historic fabric. The west end features a second floor servant room as well as storage spaces with built-in linen press and drawers.

The service stairs extend to the attic space. Immediately to the right of the stair landing is a large electric ventilation fan that would provide a constant breeze within the house during the hot summer months. Additionally, another servant room with bathroom was constructed within the attic space. Another unique addition to the structure was the water tank, which caught and retained rainwater for use in the house.

The first floor is open to the public for tours and the music room is utilized as a meeting and conference space for the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The house has been maintained with a great deal of consideration for its historic nature. The interior furnishings and finishes are sympathetic to the early 20th Century. Additionally, several original art works and furnishings still remain in the house.

The Grounds

The original estate consisted of 200 acres. Included upon the original grounds and still remaining is a gazebo constructed from cedar tree posts. On the accompanying map it is marked with the number 1 and is listed as a contributing structure. The original roof was probably constructed of cypress shingles to match the house's original shingles; however, asphalt shingles that mimic the original cypress shingles has replaced them. The estate retains the structure that was once used as a carriage house, and is now occupied by a state agency. It is marked with the number 2 on the accompanying map; however, it has been significantly altered and has lost its historic integrity. The Butler Building, marked number 3 on the accompanying map, remains on the ground directly behind the main house. The Butler Building is listed as a non-contributing structure. It is slated for destruction in June of 2002.

Today the grounds include 37 acres that are still maintained much as they were when the Berrys inhabited the estate. The main house is marked number 4 on the accompanying map and occupies a naturalized setting that reflects the early 20th Century desire to create "park like" settings. The approach to the mansion retains its integrity and provides for a natural and historic setting as well as an original watering trough that is marked with the number 5 on the accompanying map. The surrounding grounds retain numerous Eastern Red Cedars that were present when the Berry's inhabited the estate. The rolling green

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Section 7 Page 4

George F. Berry House
Franklin County, Kentucky

lawn and naturalized setting surrounding the house's front façade greatly enhances the early 20th Century "country estate" effect.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 1

George F. Berry House

name of property

Franklin County, Kentucky
county and state

George F. Berry House
Statement of Significance

C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction.

The George F. Berry Mansion in Franklin County, Kentucky (FR-F-7) meets the National Register of Historic Places eligibility **Criterion C** by embodying the distinctive characteristics of a high style structure, and by possessing great artistic value. It is significant within the historic context "The Bourbon Aristocracy in Central Kentucky", developed for this nomination.

Within that context Berry Mansion clearly illustrates distinctive characteristics of a structure produced by the "bourbon aristocracy" a group which thrived in Kentucky during the later part of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. There is within this cultural group's structures great variation in decorative style; however, each one of these structures incorporates high style characteristics with features that often contain high artistic value. These structures also clearly indicate the emergence of an elite class within the region. This elite class desired homes that incorporated distinct features that would transmit their position in society.

The George F. Berry Mansion indicates a time within the region when Colonial Revival and other late nineteenth century high style architectural modes were flourishing. This structure signifies the rising affluence of the region's whiskey producers. Furthermore, the mansion's Gothic Revival Music Room clearly demonstrates the ability of these individuals to demand structures with high artistic value. These artistic features demonstrate the bourbon culture's willingness and ability to incorporate design features into their homes. These features raised their social status. This house clearly signals a time when the "bourbon aristocracy" was deeply rooted in the region's culture.

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Section 8 Page 2

George F. Berry House
Franklin County, Kentucky

Historic Context

THE BOURBON ARISTOCRACY IN CENTRAL KENTUCKY

Research Methodology: The research for this project was conducted by numerous visits to the Kentucky Historical Society, Kentucky Heritage Council, and Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives. Additionally, the Division of Historic Properties' files were extensively used. The author made several site visits to distillery sites, including Old Crow, and Old Taylor. The author also visited the Blanton House and the old O.F.C. distillery site, which now produces bourbon under the "Buffalo Trace" label. Consultation with local historian and bourbon researcher Dr. Richard Taylor was conducted on January 31, 2002. These resources were investigated in order to determine what impact the bourbon industry had on Central Kentucky, specifically the Franklin County area. The investigation sought to determine if the bourbon industry impacted the local economy, and if that impact did exist did it enable an elite social class to evolve within the area? Furthermore, investigation of the Berry family and house at Juniper Hill was conducted in order to determine the bourbon industry's impact upon the economic and social status of the family and estate.

Bourbon conjures ideas of cool shaded verandas and gentlemen smoking cigars and talking horses. It is this image that endears bourbon to the American culture and helped to produce a powerful and prosperous industry within Kentucky's Bluegrass Region. The amber liquor flowing from charred oak barrels could be transported and sold in markets all over the United States. The New Orleans area was the prime market for bourbon. In 1828 Kentucky distilleries shipped some 44,000 barrels to the Crescent City (Buffalo Trace Distillery, Buffalo Trace Informational Packet, Frankfort, Kentucky.) The distilleries within Central Kentucky were producing more than fine amber liquor; they were, in fact, producing liquid gold.

According to Dr. Richard Taylor there were three pockets of prominent bourbon production in Central Kentucky. These areas were located throughout the Bluegrass Region and are from west to east: Nelson County and Bardstown, Franklin County and Frankfort, and Bourbon County and Paris (Taylor, Richard, Dr. Personal interview, 31 Jan. 2002.) There are numerous stories and wild guesses as to where the first bourbon was produced and who produced it; however, the actual history of early bourbon production is very clouded. Regardless of the mystery surrounding initial bourbon production it is known that by 1810 there were some two thousand whiskey distilleries in

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Section 8 Page 3

George F. Berry House

Franklin County, Kentucky

Kentucky, and by the mid-19th century bourbon was selling for an astounding 14 cents a gallon (Buffalo Trace Packet.)

Within the Central Kentucky area it appears that bourbon was being produced as early as the mid-1830s on Glenn's Creek located on the Franklin and Woodford County boundary. James Crow, a Scotch immigrant, began distilling "sour mash" bourbon in the area. It is said that he was the first to utilize this process and produced a finer grade bourbon whiskey (Johnson, L.F. History of Franklin County. Roberts Printing Co., Frankfort: 1912.) However, bourbon production in the Franklin County area was at best crude and unreliable until the after the American Civil War. It was at this time that Colonel Edmund H. Taylor Jr. is credited with revolutionizing the distilling industry within Central Kentucky.

Taylor was the grandnephew of President Zachary Taylor and possessed a talent for business. Taylor established three distilleries within Franklin County. The first, in 1868, was located on Glenn's Creek where James Crow began his whiskey making enterprise some years earlier. This was the Old Taylor Distillery and produced the widely popular Old Taylor brand. The main distillery building was constructed during the 1880s and it resembled... "a medieval castle." Inside, Taylor substituted modern, sanitary distilling equipment for the unclean, wooden beer still which distilleries had used for decades (Kramer, Carl E. Capitol on the Kentucky, Historic Frankfort Inc.: Frankfort, 1986, 197.)

In 1870 Taylor purchased the Swigert distillery located at Lee's Town in Franklin County. Taylor invested some thirty thousand dollars into the newly named "O.F.C. Old Fire Copper" Distillery. The Carlisle distillery, which shared the same area, was located below the Lock and Dam No. 4 on the Kentucky River and produced the Carlisle brand (Buffalo Trace.) These distilleries were technological breakthroughs in the whiskey industry. The O.F.C. and Carlisle distilleries were "the only distillery where the product is in contact with copper alone from the time the grain is ground until the finished whiskey is barreled in the splendid oak packages made at the company's cooper shops from selected and seasoned timber (Kramer 197.) Additionally, Taylor owned the Hermitage Distillery, which was also located on the Kentucky River in Frankfort between Second and Cross streets. This distillery complex possessed a cooperage (barrel maker), seven warehouses and produced the Old Hermitage Brand (197.)

During the 1870s several other distilleries were opened within Franklin County, among them were the Spring Hill Distillery, Arnold's Spring Distillery, and the Cedar Run

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George F. Berry House
Franklin County, Kentucky

Distillery. These distilleries prospered and from 1870 till 1880 capital investment in distilling increased from \$347,000 to \$620,000 (198.) However, it was not these newly opened distilleries that were the greatest rival of the Taylor Empire. That title was awarded to the W.A. Gaines & Company Distillers.

The firm of Gaines, Berry & Company Distillers was organized in 1867. The firm was established with the most prominent member of Frankfort society. Included among these individuals were William A. Gaines, Hiram Berry and Edmund H. Taylor, Jr. The firm became associated with the large New York House of Paris, Allen & Co. in 1868, and it was at this time that the firm established the name under which it would conduct business for the length of its existence (Johnson 1514.) W.A. Gaines & Company included prominent members W.A. Gaines, Hiram Berry, George H. Allen, Marshall J. Allen, and Frank S. Birch (Kramer 198.) Colonel E.H. Taylor withdrew from the firm and established his distillery at OFC (Johnson 1514.) W.A. Gaines & Company constructed the Old Crow distillery on the banks of Glenn's Creek and adopted the distilling practices of the old Scotsman James Crow in 1872 (The Ghost of Whiskies Past: Frankfort & Glenn's Creek Bourbon's Real Kentucky Home Internet Site, 2001.) The Old Crow brand remained the premiere bourbon distilled by W.A. Gaines throughout the company's existence.

The Gaines' company expanded its product line and capital by purchasing Taylor's Hermitage Distillery and produced the popular Old Hermitage brand (Kramer, 198.) W.A. Gaines & Company reported in October 1884 that they possessed 12,343 barrels of bourbon with the tax lists being signed by Hiram Berry. By 1914 George F. Berry was Vice President of W.A. Gaines & Company and reported that the Old Crow Distillery bottled 4,493 barrels from May to August of that year. During the same time the Hermitage Distillery produced 1,796 barrels of bourbon, which were bottled (Tax Rolls, District 7, Kentucky Bourbon Distilleries Report, Kentucky Historical Society Library. Frankfort, Kentucky.)

During the last quarter of the 19th Century the bourbon business in Franklin County continued to thrive. Frankfort's bourbon barons were busy crafting whiskey production's future within Kentucky and the United States. Colonel E.H. Taylor Jr. was instrumental in crafting the Bottled-in-Bond act of 1897, which was a "federal subsidy by tax deferral for product made to strict government standards and stored under government supervision (Whiskey's Past 6.)"

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National Park Service

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George F. Berry House
Franklin County, Kentucky

After the bottle-in-bond act was adopted, distilling within Frankfort boomed. Bottling houses were attached to every distillery and their daily output during the bottling season could exceed 36,000 bottles (Johnson 272.) During 1912 the estimated capacity of the county's bourbon warehouses was 600,000 barrels. The bourbon industry paid the wages of a large labor force, provided a local market for farmer's grain crops, and the lumber industry flourished providing the lumber needed for whiskey barrels. Altogether it is estimated that the bourbon industry within the area provided eighty five percent of all "municipal, county, and state taxes paid by Franklin Countians (Kramer 275.)"

There is little doubt that the bourbon industry within Franklin County drove the local and impacted the regional economies. The thousands of barrels of Kentucky bourbon produced at the numerous distilleries demanded a huge labor force, provided outlets for local farmers and lumber mills and certainly produced a large fortune for the owners and operators of these distilleries. It is from these large fortunes that a "Bourbon Aristocracy" arose in Central Kentucky. Within the Franklin and Woodford County areas the most influential individuals were a collective of bourbon producers that at the turn of the 20th century included amongst its most prominent members Colonel E.H. Taylor Jr., George T. Stagg, and George Franklin Berry. These individuals forged lucrative business enterprises that extended beyond the bourbon industry, were highly involved in the civic duties and cultural endeavors within the area, and were prolific builders who added some of the area's most astounding and distinctive architecture.

Perhaps the largest signature the bourbon industry produced within the local area was the sprawling distillery complex:

"The principal edifice enclosing distillery operations are...substantially built of brick, stone, or wood. The machinery employed in distillation is of modern type and in some cases, very costly construction... The bonded warehouses attached to the distilleries and held under government supervision are appropriated to the care and maturation for market of the barreled product of this large and valuable industry. They cover many acres of ground, are substantially built and have an estimated aggregate capacity for storage of nearly 600,000 barrels. Many of these warehouses are capable of holding from 10,000 to 40,000 barrels each" (Johnson 270).

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George F. Berry House
Franklin County, Kentucky

One of the most distinctive of the distilling complexes was E.H. Taylor's Old Taylor Distillery on Glenn's Creek. Local author Carl Kramer describes the main distillery building as... "resembling a medieval castle, with heavy stone walls, arch windows, towers and crenellated battlements, a red slate roof, stone bridges, a sundial, and a sunken garden. The carefully landscaped lawn included pergolas and pools" (Kramer 197). Taylor utilized this building and the highly landscaped distillery grounds for large community functions as well as a back drop for his political agendas (Whiskey's Past 6).

During the last quarter of the 19th Century the local distillery business was creating large amounts of revenue for the distillery owners. It was during this time that E.H. Taylor sold interest in the O.F.C. distillery at Leestown to George T. Stagg. By 1881 Stagg's company declared a dividend of \$273,843.34 which amounted to a substantial fortune. Unfortunately, the distillery was struck by fire in 1882, but the resources were available to rebuild and the distillery was reassembled immediately. By 1885 Warehouse B and Warehouse C were built and are still standing today (Buffalo Trace).

These warehouses adhere to Johnson's description regarding the principal edifices of the distilling industry as these structures were massive structures completed in brick. Currently the entire distillery complex, which was purchased by the Goldring family in 1992 and renamed the "Buffalo Trace Distillery", resides on the National Register of Historic Places.

It was during the later part of the 19th century that the distilling industry added to Frankfort's commercial face with several distilling operations opening offices in the city's downtown district. The industry's importance on Frankfort's commercial center must not be overlooked. It is within the commercial area that the emergence of new high style architecture begins to be associated with the bourbon industry; however, the overall building materials remain similar to the structures constructed at the distillery complexes. The E.H. Taylor Jr. Building was constructed of stone and brick on West Main Street. The structure consisted of three stories with the first story being completed in stone and the remaining two stories in brick. The windows were completed in the Italianate style. The building's cornice was very heavy and highly decorated with dentils and brackets (Kramer 197). W.A. Gaines & Company commissioned the architectural firm of Charles J. Clarke and Arthur Loomis of Louisville to construct a "four story, red brick structure located at 229 West Main St." (Kramer 231). The structure was completed in high style Italianate. The front façade possessed an iron storefront topped by three different window courses and a highly decorative cornice. As a sign of emerging importance, it is

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Section 8 Page 7

George F. Berry House

Franklin County, Kentucky

within this building that W.A. Gaines & Company owned one of the first telephones in Frankfort (215).

However important the bourbon industry's commercial architecture was to the local area, it is the residential architecture that provides the most outstanding examples of distinctive high style creations that the bourbon aristocracy produced. Certainly the bourbon baron sought out the very finest living accommodations. During the mid-19th century E.H. Taylor Jr. purchased the Swigert-Taylor-Bradley House after the death of Jacob Swigert. The home is a classic Greek Revival structure and was perhaps one of Frankfort's finest homes at the time Taylor purchased the residence. He occupied the home during his tenure as city mayor, but sold it in 1874 to Judge W.P.D. Bush. The house was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1971 (Swigert-Taylor-Bradley House Informational Brochure, Kentucky Heritage Council. Frankfort, Kentucky.)

However, in the waning years of the 19th century the local bourbon aristocrats strayed from the great Greek Revival mansions and gravitated towards the high style architecture that at the turn of the century was becoming popular. E.H. Taylor Jr. on Louisville Road constructed the first house of this type. Thistleton was not constructed of the stone or brick which had previously dominated the bourbon aristocracy's architectural taste, it was, in fact a wooden structure. However, the setting and mode in which the structure was completed identified with the image the bourbon aristocrat wished to project. Thistleton was a large structure that Carl Kramer designates as "no doubt one of the most splendid Queen Anne-style residences in Franklin County" (Kramer 224.) Unfortunately the house was razed in the 1960s and images are all that is left of the fabulous structure. Two large stone stairs that led to a plateau upon which the residence sat fronted the house. A large veranda encircled the house and crowned with spindles created a balustrade that accented the house's second story. The structure also possessed the medieval characteristics that accent Queen Anne as well as many other late-19th-century structures. Large steep gables and towers adorned the structure and clearly echoed the high style Gothic themes popular during the time period.

Thistleton is an early example of the high style architecture produced by the bourbon aristocrats at the end of the 19th century; however, there are several structures that sprawl across the local landscape. Another striking example of a "bourbon edifice" is Stony Point Mansion, which was constructed on the grounds of the Stagg Distillery at Leestown. Stony Point was constructed during the 1930s by Albert B. Blanton, President of the George T. Stagg Distillery (Buffalo Trace.) According to the information collected

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Section 8 Page 8

George F. Berry House

Franklin County, Kentucky

at the Buffalo Trace Distillery Stony Point was designed and constructed by Blanton as a home for his new wife. The house is constructed from stone and features a massive façade that once again possesses a reflection of medieval grandeur. Additionally, the structure's interior reflects a Gothic style with its heavy exposed wooden timber beams as well as the heavily wood appointed rooms. The mansion, as well as the rest of the distillery, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

It is, however, the house of George F. Berry that most clearly illustrates the architectural pinnacle reached by the bourbon aristocracy within the local area in the years that surrounded the turn of the 20th century. The "bourbon edifice" required each structure produced by the bourbon aristocrat to be substantial, built of large coursed ashlar stone, brick or be a massive wooden structure and all must possess highly decorative effects. Each of these structures were required not only to reflect a highly defined sense of current style, but also to instill within the visitor, employee, or dignitary who entered that the owner of the structure was important, cultured, and wielded great wealth and power. All of these aspects are clearly demonstrated within Berry Mansion and the surrounding grounds at Juniper Hill.

The house which George F. Berry constructed in 1900 incorporated all the elements that the "bourbon edifice" demanded ("Berry Hill History," Kentucky Division of Historic Properties. Frankfort, Kentucky.) From its very beginnings "Berry Hill," as it has become popularly known, was a venture into the high style architecture that reflected all the aspects demanded by the bourbon aristocracy within the area.

George Berry purchased the property during the last decade of the 19th century. He named the estate Juniper Hill due to the large amount of red cedars that were growing upon the property ("Berry Hill History.") Upon the land he commissioned the construction of a massive stone Colonial Revival structure.

Berry obtained the services of William J. Dodd and Arthur Cobb to create the plans for the house's construction ("House of Mr. Geo. F. Berry, Frankfort, KY." Editorial. Architectural Review Jan. 1904: 86.) William J. Dodd came to Louisville, Kentucky after a lengthy association with the Chicago School of Architecture where he trained under William Le Baron Jenny. Upon his arrival in 1885 he formed several associations -one of the most productive being with Mason Maury. Dodd and his partner Maury designed the Louisville Trust Company Building in the city in 1891. Maury and Dodd went on to design the building representing Kentucky in the World's Colombian Exposition. The

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George F. Berry House

Franklin County, Kentucky

structure was completed in the new Colonial Revival style (Oberwarth, Julian C. The Profession of Architecture in Kentucky. Louisville: Gateway Press. 1987, 20 –21.) It was with Arthur Cobb, however, that Dodd completed some of his most noted Colonial Revival structures within Central Kentucky.

According to George Berry's niece (Cornelia Roberts) the house was completed in 1900 (Roberts, Mrs. James O. "Juniper Hill: A Recollected History," Kentucky Division of Historic Properties.) It was widely received and appeared in the January 1904 Architectural Review. The following paragraph was taken from that periodical:

"Owing to local conditions this house, built at Frankfort, Kentucky, for Mr. George F. Berry, by Messrs. W.J. Dodd & Arthur Cobb, architects of Louisville, Kentucky, had to be simple enough in its design that it might be built by local contractors, and of materials which were obtainable in that vicinity; but as is usually the outcome in such cases, both the restraint thus imposed and the use of local materials proved a distinct benefit in the final result" (Architectural Review 86.)

The final result was, in fact, an exemplar bourbon edifice. The house was built out of large ashlar stone and incorporated many Richardsonian Romanesque features, which gave the Colonial Revival structure the stateliness required by the bourbon aristocrat. However, the house was not complete and in 1912 a music room was added. Family tradition holds that W.J. Dodd and Kenneth McDonald were employed to design the room and the Louisville, Kentucky firm Alfred Struck and Co. advertised images of the room as their design (Berry Hill Collection, Kentucky Division of Historic Properties. Frankfort, Kentucky.) The large gothic room, which family members believe cost 65,000 dollars, was adorned with hand carved oak panels. Family tradition maintains that two European wood carvers were employed for two years in order to complete the elegant room. The room was crowned with a Hillgreen, Lane and Company cathedral organ that still resides in the room today.

George F. Berry had indeed produced the perfect bourbon edifice, which incorporated not only the high style architecture popular during the period, but also the defining characteristics required by the bourbon aristocracy. The house's physical features proclaim very clearly that it was the product of a powerful, wealthy, and cultured individual; however, it is how Berry used his home that most clearly illustrates the nature of his involvement in the region's cultural resources. George Berry desired to play his

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organ and engaged Sidney Durst of the Cincinnati Conservatory as his teacher. Durst was often an extended guest on the estate and played midnight recitals to preferred guest who flocked to Juniper Hills (Berry Hill History.) It seems that the Berry Mansion played host to some of the most influential and widely celebrated musical guests of the day, as invitations to those performances today document. The music room also played host to local music clubs and social organizations and invitations to these affairs were widely published in the local papers (Berry Family Papers. Collection owned by Marcie Broderson. Frankfort, Kentucky.)

George F. Berry died in 1938 and his wife Mary Bush Berry in 1950. The mansion and estate passed to his niece Cornelia Gordon Roberts who in turn sold the estate to Louis Rosensteil, president of Schenley Distilleries. However, he never occupied the house and by 1953 the city of Frankfort purchased the estate. During 1957 the city sold 42 acres and the residence to the state of Kentucky. The city retained the remaining acreage and developed the Juniper Hills Municipal Park, which is still used by the community. The residence was transformed to the Kentucky Library Extension Division and then to the Kentucky Department of the Arts. However, by 1991, the venerable mansion became the home of the Kentucky Division of Historic Properties (Berry Hill Papers.) The residence and grounds are now operated by the Kentucky Division of Historic Properties and are open to the public for tours and rentals.

The residence and grounds remain largely intact and their appearance has not been significantly altered from their original 1912 appearance. The structure's integrity remains nearly intact. The Kentucky Library Extension Division added a modular building to the washhouse located on the estate, but that has recently been removed. At this time no structures are connected to the residence which would impede its integrity. The structure's interior remains largely in its original condition with nearly all the original decorative woodwork, mantels, and staircases intact. Furthermore, the mansion's leaded glass windows, decorated with juniper trees, remain intact. The Kentucky Division of Historic Properties employees' great effort in assuring that the structure's integrity remains intact and the mansion's interior remains sympathetic to its turn of the century roots.

In conclusion, the presence of bourbon distillers within Franklin and Woodford Counties within Kentucky clearly aided in the production of a very distinct form of architecture. This form has been referred to as the "bourbon edifice" by local historians and is clearly demonstrated by the numerous structures that dot the Central Kentucky landscape. The

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George F. Berry House
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“bourbon aristocracy” within the local area flourished and extended a great deal of influence not only on the regional economy but also the region’s physical and cultural image as well. It is the estate conceived by George F. Berry that most clearly demonstrates the impact that the bourbon culture had on the local architectural image. The mansion identifies Berry as being a member of that cultural enclave and perhaps represents one of the finest “bourbon edifices” constructed within Franklin County. Additionally, Berry’s use of the residence and grounds demonstrates the impact that the estate and its function as a cultural center exercised over the local community. Clearly when one thinks of the bourbon culture and its impact upon Central Kentucky the house that George F. Berry built stands at the very pinnacle of not only architectural significance but also cultural significance within the region.

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George F. Berry House
Franklin County, Kentucky

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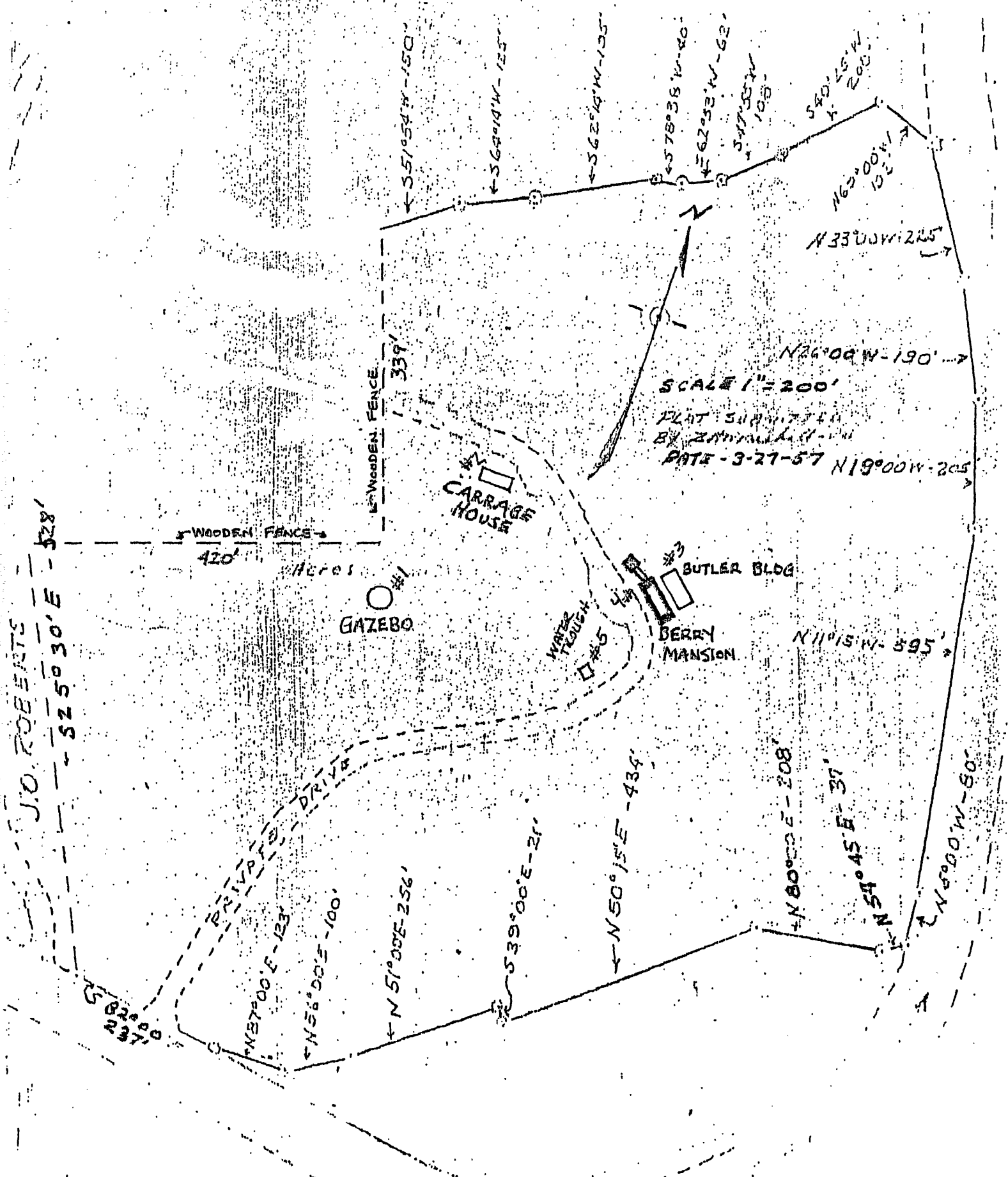
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George F. Berry House and Estate

700 Louisville Rd.
Franklin County
Frankfort, KY 40601



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George F. Berry House
name of property
Franklin County, Kentucky
county and State

1. Name of Property on photos 1-9: George F. Berry House
2. County and State on photos 1-9: Franklin County, Kentucky
3. Name of Photographer on photos 1-9: Tim Thornberry
4. Date of Photograph on photos 1-9: April 11, 2002
5. Location of original negative 1-9: Kentucky Division of Historic Properties, Berry Mansion
700 Louisville Rd.,
Frankfort, KY 40601
6. Description of view indication direction
of camera:
 - Photo #1: East facing West
 - Photo #2: West facing East
 - Photo #3: North facing South
 - Photo #4: South facing North
 - Photo #5: East facing West
 - Photo #6: East facing West
 - Photo #7: Northwest facing Southeast
 - Photo #8: East facing West
 - Photo #9: West facing East
7. Photograph number listed on lower right corner.