Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

XEXCELLENT.

have been built.

__GOOD

FAIR

__DETERIORATED

UNEXPOSED

RUINS

and open meadows divided by rows of aged trees.

__UNALTERED

X ORIGINAL SITE

__MOVED

DATE....

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Photo numbers

- 1-6 The Stewart Home School is located $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles south and slightly west of Frankfort, Kentucky, along the old road to Harrodsburg. The school and its farm buildings lie along one of the highest ridges in Franklin County, a couple of miles from the deep gorge of the Kentucky River. maps) The Main Building is situated beside a shallow depression not far from the mineral springs which gave the site its early fame and name of Franklin Springs. The beautifully undulating topography with a number of ancient trees, including a pair of ginkgoes said to have been planted by Henry Clay, was enhanced in the early 20th century by the planting of vast quantities of specimen trees, particularly numerous evergreens not often used in Kentucky. The extensive main grounds are surrounded by handsome stone walls and entered through limestone gateposts. Meandering drives pass a small pond, several private dwellings, and other landscape features before approaching the magnificent Greek Revival Main Building, which lies among scattered outbuildings of varied style and construction dates. Beyond, lie the farm
- 3-6 The complex construction history of the Main Building is somewhat unclear. The central portion of the Main Building was erected for Dr. Roberts in 1839. Nothing has survived of the cottages presumably built about the same time. The facilities were enlarged in 1840. The Main Building retains, in spite of the fire of 1855, several Grecian features that probably date from this period. The windows in general have very plain but fine sandstone sills and lintels; there is a handsome one-story porch with square piers on the south side; in the east wing there are triple doors, flanked by sidelights, opening onto the upper gallery, that have a functional Greek character. There is a powerfully simple red marble Grecian mantel in one of the lower rooms of this wing, which also has very plain, even crude post-and-lintel window and door fames. It is possible,

however, that this wing dates from 1847 and 1848 when the north and east wings are said to

5A-B On the other hand, this description may refer to the two long low barrack buildings that lie to the north and east of the L-shaped Main Building (plus a third to the northwest long gone), forming with it an open quadrangle almost an acre in extent with, according to the Catalogue of the Kentucky Military Institute for 1848, all doors opening on the court and visible from the officer's quarters (presumably in the wings of the Main Building). An early lithograph, published in Cincinnati by Middleton, Strobridge & Co. (also publishers of Col. Morgan's "Parallels of the Orders") shows most of the east range of the barracks, with a portion of that to the north. Curiously, these buildings, with their two stories of wooden galleries, plain thin posts and railings and sheltered outdoor staircases, resemble the more modest mid-19th century resort hotels associated with spas. They also have several parapetted dividing walls similar to those generally found in Kentucky only along the Ohio River. According to Johnson, the contractor of the original buildings was George Vest, the father of United States Senator Vest of Missouri.

In December 1855 fire swept and almost totally destroyed the central portion of the Main Building and its north wing containing the kitchen and dining room. According to the report in <u>The Commonwealth</u> (Frankfort, December 18, 1855), \$17,000 worth of insurance was collected and

Continued

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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SPECIFIC DAT	es ca. 1840; 1855 &	later BUILDER/ARC	HITECT Unknown	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Stewart Home School property represents a multitude of superimposed significances within a diversified range of buildings unified by a beautiful quasi-rural landscape. Contained within the present school complex is the site of one of the early spas once so numerous in Kentucky; a magnificent Greek Revival residence-hotel with interesting Italianate modifications; structures associated with the Kentucky Military Institute, one of the outstanding preparatory schools in the country, located here for its first fifty years; and one of the most advanced and humane of institutions for the care of the mentally retarded and physically handicapped. All these varied functions and the structures designed to house them have benefited from the beautiful Blue-grass rolling landscape (still a working farm although lavishly planted), in which they have been set.

The first recorded owner of the property known to have made improvements was Edmund Scanland (according to Johnson, Oliver Perry Scanland), an early settler of Franklin County who married Anna Hawkins in 1797, according to court records. He lived on the site of the present Main Building in a community then—and until recently—known as Farmdale. Scanland is thought to have been the first to discover and exploit the supposed curative powers of the spring located a short distance southeast of the Main Building in a small hollow. He is said to have boiled out the mineral salts from the springs and marketed it locally for medicinal purposes.

In 1838 Dr. Joseph G. Roberts of Frankfort bought the property and erected the core of the present Main Building as well as a number of cottages which no longer survive. In 1839 Dr. Roberts publicly announced the opening of the spa or watering place, known as Franklin Springs, stating that his establishment could accommodate 80-100 guests during the summer. This soon became one of the best-known of the innumerable watering places for which Kentucky was renowned during the mid-19th century. Although later modified, the remaining Greek Revival portions of the Main Building constitute one of the best preserved of the few surviving structures associated with these 19th-century resort hotels in Kentucky.

In 1840 Dr. Roberts announced that he had enlarged his facilities and could now accommodate 200-300 guests. Apparently soon thereafter word spread that the spring water had become contaminated. For a year or two the buildings were used as an educational institution for young ladies; this venture, however, also failed and the property reverted to Scanland. In 1842 it was sold to a group of investors, J. W. Lindsay, A. S. Parker, and B. B. Johnson.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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Stewart Home School
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

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Photo numbers

rebuilding began immediately. The contractor responsible for the rebuilding was Hiram (or Hardin) Berry.

- It is probably the newly rebuilt Main Building that is shown in another handsome lithograph that is thought to date from shortly before the Civil War. The Main Building is shown from the southwest over an immaculate row of cadets lined up in front of a wood-rail fence (where there is now a stone wall and haha). The north kitchen wing terminates in a parapet, portions of which still remain. Beyond, hidden by trees, is the west barrack, which has since been removed. The Main Building, however, is in almost exactly the form it still retains, with its curious mixture of Greek and Italianate elements that one must assume date from before and after the fire, although the coincidence of the fine "Tuscan Doric" with that shown in the "Parallels" published by Col. Morgan suggests too that the portico may date from after the fire. (Morgan did not become associated with the Institute until 1851, and is unlikely to have supervised the design of such a large-scale project without the provocation of the fire between 1851 and 1855.)
- The portico is an exceptionally handsome one. It is a two-story colossal hexastyle portico, with square piers at the front corners of the main block. The sturdy stucco-covered brick columns are unfluted, but have slight entasis, that is, they bulge slightly in the middle. The bases and capitals are massive but precisely detailed—almost as if an exercise in analytical geometry. The columns rest on square blocks and they in turn rest on the broad stone porch whose foundations continue around most of the building. Columns and piers support a broad plain entablature only the cornice of which continues beyond the piers along the side walls. This cornice frames the unadorned but superbly proportioned pediment.

The window openings of the main block are all tall rectangles of generous proportions, with plain stone lintels. The recessed central doorway has a simple frame. Thus far, all is of the purest Grecian.

But the two matching bay windows on the south side and the cupola over the second-story rotunda have an incipient Italianate character most obvious in a contrast to the straight-forward south porch. The octagonal cupola has tall round-arched windows with perhaps a 'Lombard' pattern of a circle within the arch (now closed in). There are slender pilasters at the angles and a projecting cornice that relates to that of the portico. The bays have paired round-arched muntins and are filled with extremely handsome heraldic stencilled glass, perhaps evoking Tudor models. This association may be strengthened

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Stewart Home School

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 3

by the surprising occurrence of fine ogival Gothic glass-doored bookcases in the library to the left of the main entrance (there is even a Gothic radiator to match). Otherwise, however, the interiors of the main block are essentially mid-Victorian Renaissance Revival, with deeply molded cornices, elaborate chandelier medallions in the central hall and right parlor, and a Victorian round-arched marble mantel in the right rear parlor. Other features, such as handsome New Grecian or Eastlake brass chandeliers in the front parlor and library, seem to date from a renovation of the 1880s. There is yet another bay window off the left rear dining room, which gives onto the L-shaped lower gallery that faces the court and terminates to the east in a three-story apartment with a square tower, perhaps added early in this century.

The staircase is located unobtrusively off the main hall, perhaps to distinguish between public and private apartments. On the second story there is a central hall with formerly an opening in the ceiling up to the lantern of the cupola, which has an inside walkway that provides a commanding view of the countryside.

- The Main Building and Barracks are surrounded by other structures hidden among the trees.

 Several of them apparently date from the 1920s and were probably designed by C. Julian Oberwarth of Frankfort. They feature pyramidal red-tile roofs, perhaps intended to evoke Tuscan villa models; they also have parapetted walls related to those of the Barracks. Several handsome residences occupied by members of the owners' family dot the grounds; one of them, slightly to the northwest of the Main Building overlooking the pond, is an attractively shingled Georgian Revival design, built originally in 1901 with extensive alterations during 1925. A
- log cabin built in 1938 and used for crafts activities such as weaving and ceramics is located not far from the original springs. A small laundry building dates from 1895; the great
- horse barn at the crest of the ridge to the northeast was constructed in 1925. Several recent Williamsburg-inspired dormitories replace earlier cottages in a partial ring south of the Main

Building.

Form No. 10-300a (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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Stewart Home School
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 4

The recent buildings on the School grounds have a somewhat different character, inspired by colonial American architecture, from those they replaced or supplement. They are carefully sited and laid out, however, in order not to conflict with the overall atmosphere and arrangement of the facilities on the grounds. They form an integral part of the present institution, reflecting the evolving concept of housing, activities, and care for the patients, which calls for decentralized dormitories of limited groups of children living together. Every effort has been made to prevent the larger features, particularly those associated with athletic activities, from being visually obtrusive within the expanse of the grounds as a whole, while keeping them conveniently near the main buildings. Several of them are sited to take advantage of the sloping ground. The newer structures also provide transitions to the surrounding farmland that provides both seclusion and a realm of activities for the patients, as well as produce for the diningroom. On the other hand, although some 500 acres are now included in the holdings of the Stewart family, only the area containing the school itself, its landscaped grounds, and major farm buildings is being nominated as directly related to the functioning of the institution and the location of the historic associations.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Stewart Home School
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

The grounds were used in August 1842 as the site of a Presbyterian camp meeting. Apparently the place was still used as a spa, however, for in the summer of 1843 there were among the visitors two who had a decisive affect on the history of the site, Colonel Robert T. P. Allen and his wife.

Colonel Robert T. P. Allen, called "an inventor, a minister, a government diplomat, a soldier, and a very able administrator;" was born in Baltimore in 1813. He attended West Point from 1830 to 1834. While he was there Allen and others burned down a building they found objectionable. Only Allen admitted his culpability, but refused to name his accomplices. He then appealed successfully for recourse from President Andrew Jackson, who became a friend. While at the White House, Allen courted and eventually married a niece of Jackson's, Julia Bond.

After West Point, Allen was commissioned captain; was promoted to the rank of colonel, in charge of a harbor on Lake Michigan; and served in the Seminole War of 1836-37. He resigned his commission in 1838 to teach mathematics and civil engineering at Allegheny College in Pennsylvania. In 1841 he came to Kentucky to teach at Transylvania College in Lexington. Two years later he visited Franklin Springs and in December 1845 he resigned from Transylvania and moved to the Springs, which he had purchased earlier in the year. In the fall of 1845 there had been a few boys in attendance, but the official opening of the Kentucky Military Institute (originally known as Franklin Institute) was not until April 1846.

Col. Allen's endeavor was inaugurated at a most auspicious moment. What was to become KMI was the first military academy in what was then considered the West, and only the fourth in the country (West Point had been founded by Act of Congress in 1802; Norwich University, begun in 1819, was chartered in 1834; the Virginia Military Institute was founded in the State of Virginia in 1839). Col. Allen's was the first to include a preparatory school. It was founded just after 1844, during the agitation over the U.S.-Mexico boundary.

The educational situation in Kentucky was also at a lowpoint during the early 1840s. The University of Kentucky had not yet been established. In 1838 the Kentucky General Assembly had passed a law to establish a common school system in the State, but little progress had been made toward implementing it, thanks to what Richard H. Collins, writing in A History of Kentucky (1874), called "the ruthless hands of an unsympathizing and crude legislature." In this context the new school was a needed and ambitious endeavor. Colonel Allen summed up the goals of the "Boarding School, intended as a permanent Academy, for Boys and

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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Stewart Home School
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE 3

Young Men, "in a prospectus circulated in the winter of 1845:

The Principal will aim, not to render to his pupils a mere magazine of knowledge, but so to impart useful information as to develop and give direction to the mental faculties and physical powers, that the pupil, having acquired correct habits of thought and observation, may afterwards pursue his search for knowledge independently, and be able to turn it to practical account.

In this sytem, the education of the entire man, MORAL, INTELLECTUAL AND PHYSICAL, will receive proper attention... Vocal Music will be considered as a branch of physical education, and will be cultivated as such.

An 1868 catalog further noted that the location "at the Franklin springs—a resort for health since the first settlement of the state—is admirably adapted to academical purposes; on an elevated site, the mineral and corrective tonic, and cistern water abundant. . . . The locality, several miles from any town, is shut out from all unwholesome influences, moral or physical."

The institution was non-denominational but intended to develop 'Strength and symmetry of character." It was chartered by the legislature in 1847 and renamed Kentucky Military Institute, with the opening of a college program. In 1847 the Main Building, which had originally housed only fifty students, was expanded by an additional 24 rooms; in 1848 forty more, along with a chapel and dining room, were added. In spite of various vicissitudes, including Col. Allen's trip to California during the Gold Rush of 1849, the school prospered. Among the first graduates in 1851 was John G. Carlisle of Covington, who later became Secretary of the Treasury in the second Cleveland administration.

In 1854 Allen sold the institution along with 252 acres of land to Lieutenant Colonel Edwin W. Morgan, who had joined the staff in 1851. Morgan's career had closely paralleled Allen's, but he put more emphasis on what he called "useful education." This included "Architecture, Construction, and Design." Perhaps to serve in a "Resident Graduate Course" in these disciplines, Morgan published at an unknown date two exquisitely drawn and lithographed sheets labelled "Parallel of the Orders of Architecture."

In 1855 a disastrous fire almost totally destroyed the Main Building, including the kitchen and dining room. This may, however, have given Col. Morgan his opportunity to try his

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Stewart Home School
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PAGE 4

hand at actual architecture. In any case, the splendid portico on the present building is an exact replica of his "Tuscan Doric" order, although it is possible that the portico antedates the fire. Other features of the rebuilt structure including a pair of bay windows, the cupola, and interior decorations have a definite mid-Victorian Italianate flavor.

In 1861 the entire student body—then at its peak enrollment of over \\$50—and most of the faculty simultaneously joined one side or the other in the civil conflict. The school was closed from June 1861 until September 1865. All the cadets became officers; among them were five Union and two Confederate generals, including John Hunt Morgan. After the Civil War the students were mainly from southern states, in spite of their parents' "financial prostration."

In 1863 Professor B. B. Sayre of Frankfort had bought the school from the ailing Morgan (then teaching at Lehigh). Sayre was called at the time by the Frankfort Commonwealth "the most successful teacher in America whose influence has been felt, perhaps, more than any other one man who has lived in the state." Under his aegis the institute opened in 1865 with the motto "A Strong Mind In A Strong Body," with "instruction... chiefly on the oral system."

The following year Col. Allen, assisted by his son Lt. Col. R. D. Allen, bought the school back from Sayre. The younger Allen became Superintendent in 1874 on his father's retirement, just as the Southern states began to recover financially from Reconstruction. Under his regime the school emphasized practical study, as well as the military sciences.

The elder Allen died in 1888. Among his accomplishments he had listed the construction of a concrete house near Frankfort, and the invention of a typewriter, type-distribution machine, and a steam wagon.

A Government Reserve Officers' Training Corps had been initiated in 1867. In 1878 a summer school for teachers—the first 'normal school" in the state—was opened. Col. R. D. Allen also helped institute the Kentucky Teachers' Association, of which he was president 1884-87.

Throughout this period various improvements were made on the property. However, in 1887 Col. Allen sold the property to cover mortgage claims. (He then founded the Louisville Military Institute and later moved to Texas, where he died in 1909.) After

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Stewart Home School

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changing hands several times the school closed in 1893; it soon reopened in Mount Sterling and later Lyndon, Kentucky, where it remained until it was finally closed permanently in the 1960s.

In September 1893 the property was sold to Doctor John Quincy Adams Stewart (1829-1898), in whose family it still belongs. Educated at Louisville, Dr. Stewart too had joined the Gold Rush but remained in California almost a decade practicing medicine. In 1857 he returned to Louisville for two years, then moved to Owensboro, Kentucky, where he practiced for twenty years. In 1878 he was appointed by Governor McCreary Superintendent of the Kentucky Institute for the Education and Training of Feeble-Minded Children and made a notable record in that office, which he filled for sixteen years, being reappointed by four successive governors. In 1893 he resigned that office and established the Stewart Home Training School at the former Kentucky Military Institute complex. It was the first private residential school for the retarded. According to a 1928 biography, "He was the first pioneer in this field west of the Allegheny Mountains and through the upbuilding of this school rendered a service of inestimable benefit to humanity."

Dr. J.Q.A. Stewart's son, Dr. John Pugh Stewart (1870-1941), succeeded his father at the latter's death in 1898. He had attended Kentucky Military Institute and, after medical training, had helped his father found the School in 1893. Under his leadership the school remained highly progressive in its humane treatment of the mentally retarded. The Stewart School was one of the first such institutions to emphasize crafts as a method of rehabilitation. Dr. J. P. Stewart and his grandson, Dr. J. P. Stewart II, were responsible for the construction of a number of additional buildings, as well as beautification of the grounds. Dr. J. P. Stewart II had a gymnasium erected, in which an innovative program of physical therapy was conducted. He also amplified the teaching program, emphasizing speech therapy and utilizing a motivational method of education. He also advocated activities involving the outside community.

Other members of the Stewart family, including John Dowling Stewart, who was Superintendent during World War II and until 1961, have been prominent both in the medical profession--Drs. J.Q.A. and J. P. (I) Stewart have been president of the Kentucky Medical Association--and in the community.

New construction, as the character of the institution evolved, has been carefully kept in harmony with the older structures and the matured landscape setting. The property,

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Stewart Home School CONTINUATION SHEET

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which includes handsome and still functioning farm buildings, is beautifully maintained, as befits its extraordinarily rich historical, architectural, and institutional heritage.

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Stewart Home School

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- Charles Pentecost, "Visit to School Is Trip Back In Time," <u>The State-Journal</u> (Frankfort, October 13, 1974).
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- Z. F. Smith, <u>History of Kentucky</u> (Louisville: Courier-Journal Job Printing Company, 1885, Centennial Edition), pp. 862-63, 865.

Catalogues of the Kentucky Military Institute and Stewart Home School.

Franklin County Court Records.

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Stewart Home School

CONTINUATION SHEET

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Existing Structures and Facilities on Campus of Stewart Home School

- 1. Main Building (ca. 1840; rebuilt after fire in mid-1850s, with later additions)
- 2. East Building (originally East Barracks; 1847)
- 3. North Building (originally North Barracks; 1847)
- 4. Laundry (1895)
- 5. Dr. John Pugh Stewart House (1918; addition 1925)
- 6. Spring Hill (1925)
- 7. Farm Sheds (1926)
- 8. Power House (1927)
- 9. Redmon House (1929)
- 10. Horse Barn (1935)
- 11. Main Gate (1936)
- 12. Dairy Barn (1938)
- 13. Log Cabin (1938)
- 14. Milk Room (1950)
- 15. Dr. John Poage Stewart (II) House (1958)
- 16. Dowling Hall (Boys' Dormitory; 1963)
- 17. Smoke House (1964)
- 18. Swimming Pool (1965)
- 19. Gymnasium (1965)
- 20. Riding Ring (1970)
- 21. Girls' Dormitory (1971)
- 22. Girls' Dormitory (1973)
- 23. Girls' Dormitory (1974)

The grounds in their present form were laid out about 1893.



The View From The Top

In the land of four seasons the 500 acre estate provides the setting for an oasis for the handicapped. In recent years the development program has resulted in the new gymnasium and recreation center, swimming pool, self-care unit and two private room estages. Perception of our oxisting units is

proceeding on schedule. The riding ring is completed and the horseback riding program expanded. The atmosphere is dynamic, full of anticipation. This aerial picture of the Stewart Home School reveals the complete facility. The check marks, from left to right, point up some of the landmarks of the School: the stable, riding ring, new men's residence, large dormitory, main administration building, the lake at the entrance to the school, gymnasium (with the swimming pool adjacent to it), tennis courts and the new women's

"The View From The Top"

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"The Stewart Home School," brochure

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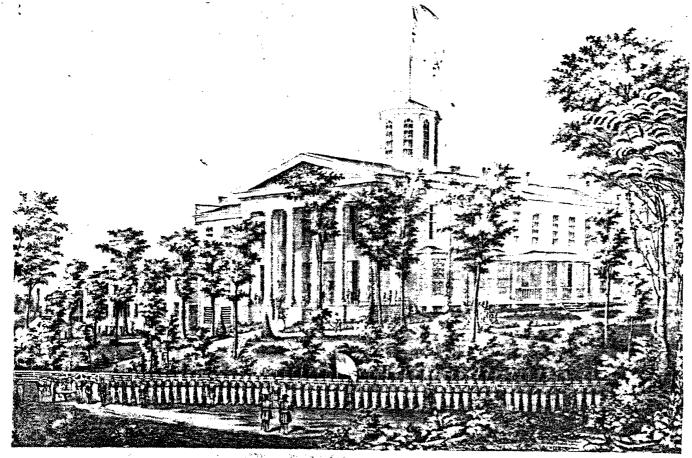
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Air View of campus from west: Mrs. John Dowling Stewart Residence in center; lake and main entrance lower right; Dr. John P. Stewart II Residence mid-right; the first of several new dormitories upper right; Main Building and Barracks upper center, with new gymnasium and swimming



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The Administration Building,

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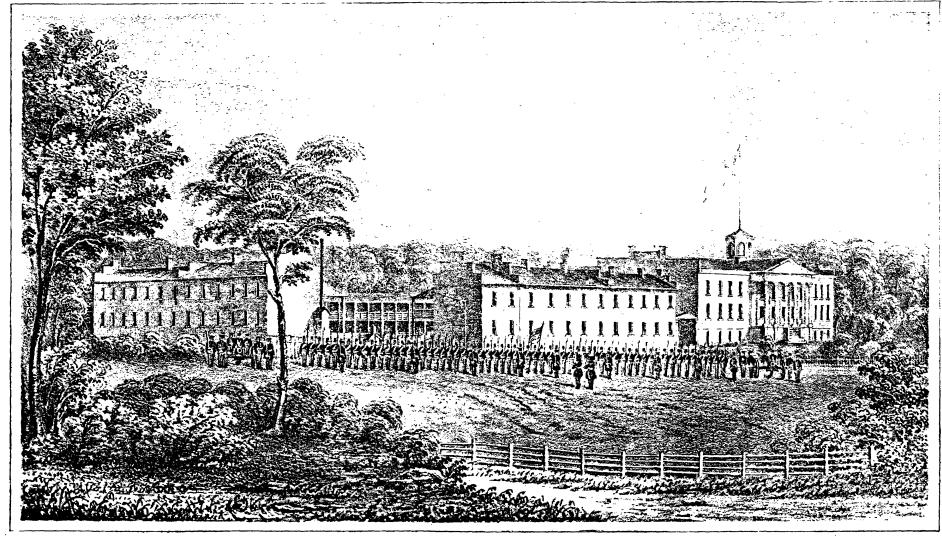
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View of Main Building from the southwest, probably shortly after the reconstruction after the fire of 1855; on this and earlier lithographs note the wooden fences. Note also the painted-glass windows in the bays at the right. INT: 2983-75



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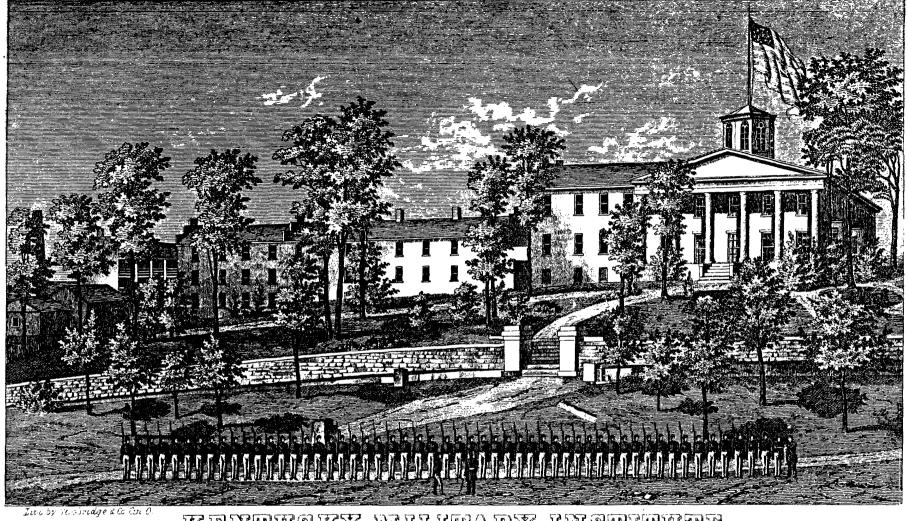
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View from northwest, probably showing Main Building as rebuilt after the 1855 fire, except for the right (south) wing that appears never to have been rebuilt (or built); destroyed west wing: north barrack at left, with east barrack between wings at the rear.

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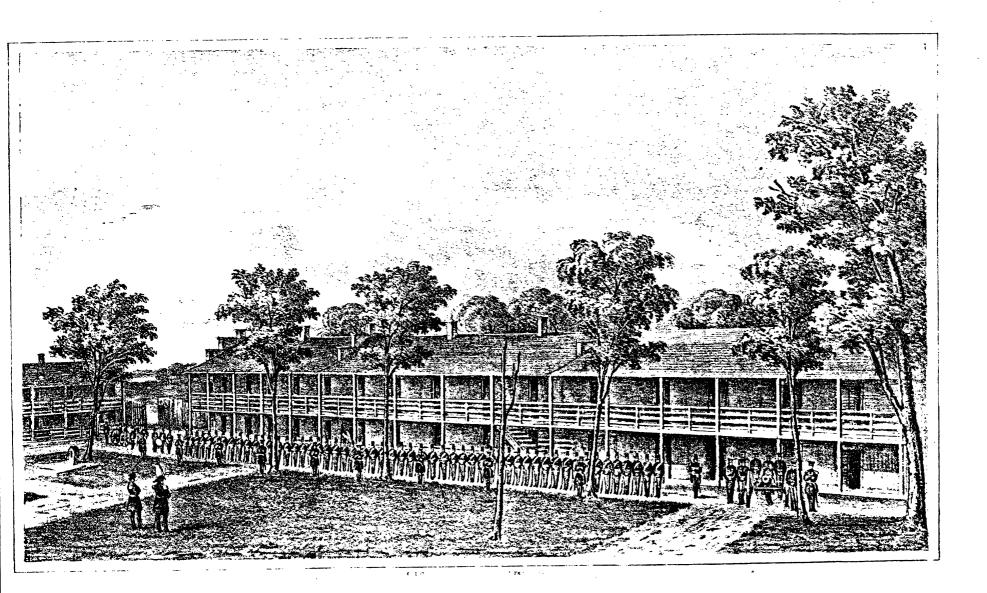
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View of Main Building and west barrack from the southwest. The stone wall and gateposts with semicircular steps within are still extant.



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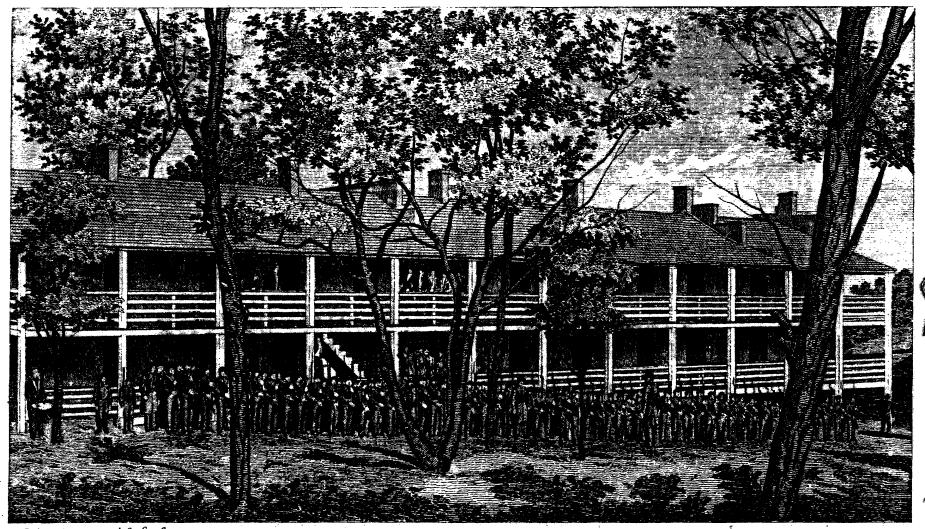
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East barrack from Main Building looking northeast. This lithograph appears to be a copy of an earlier version that was included in pre-Civil War catalogues.

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Stewart Home School

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3 PHOTO REFERENCE

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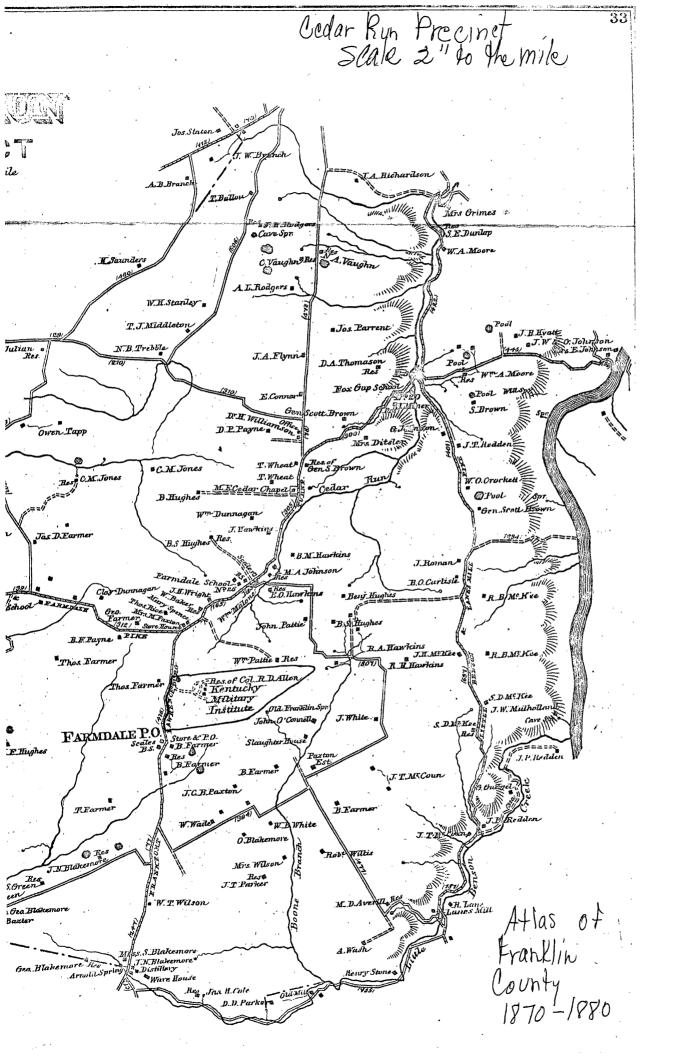
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TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

- 1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
- 2. NORTH ARROW
- 3. UTM REFERENCES

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Map 3