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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

	Kentucky
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Clark

FOR NPS USE ONLY

						ENTRY DATE				
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Agricu		overnment	Park			Transportation	Comments			
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4. OWNER O	FPROPERTY				MAY 2	8 1974				
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7.	DESCRIPTION							
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	CONDITION	Excellent	🔀 Good	☐ Fair	☐ Dete	riorated	Ruins	Unexposed
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	DESCRIBE THE PE	RESENT AND ORI	GINAL (if kno	wn) PHYSICA	APPEA	RANCE		

"Holly Rood" belongs to the late Kentucky Georgian manner influenced to a degree by the Federal style. The house has two stories with a cellar, brick bearing walls, and a low-hipped roof. The central-hall plan with parlors on either side is reflected in the five-bay elevation. The stairwell is located to the rear of the north wing. The foundations are of cut limestone approximately two feet thick.

The entrance to "Holly Rood" is through a later Ionic tetrastyle portico surmounted by a small pediment in the center. The main entrance on the east facade is through a set of double doors flanked by sidelights with stained glass set in lead and an arched fanlight above. Each window sash has twelve panes. A Palladian window with sidelights also of leaded, stained glass was placed in the center of the second story of the front facade.

The north wing is interesting in that it projects forward and the east face of this wing is three-sided. Examination of the south face reveals that a wing existed on this side at one time. If original, this mass would have made the total composition more symmetrical. However, the apparent dimensions of the south wing are not identical to those of the north wing and the three-sided face did not exist.

The exterior detailing is severe; the cornice work is minimal. There is no pattern in the masonry work - window heads are plain, sills are straightforward and the walls were laid in a running bond. Even at the top of the foundation wall little attention was given by either a strong beltcourse or a mortar wash. However, this simplicity parallels the detailing found in the Kentucky Georgian stone houses prevalent during this period.

Evidence for the later date of the portico can be found in the foundation work. The stone of the house proper was cut and shaped with a relatively flat surface and the mortar joints are raised. However, the portico stone, although cut and shaped, has a raised face and the mortar joints are concave.

The central hall is quite generous and leads directly through the house to the rear and the outside. It is possible that a porch once existed on the rear, however, present additions prevent an opinion on this point. To either side of the hall were the parlors and to the rear of the north wing the stairs and the kitchen were located. The second floor consisted of a hall and basically three rooms, two large bedrooms with a smaller room

(Continued on "Continuation Sheet")

SIGNIFICANCE			
PERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
Pre-Columbian	16th Century	☐ 18th Century	20th Century
☐ 15th Century	☐ 17th Century	X 19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicab	te and Known) 1813		
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Che	eck One or More as Appropri	ate)	
Abor iginal	Education	🔀 Political	Urban Planning
☐ Prehistoric	Engineering	Religion/Phi-	Other (Specify)
☐ Historic	Industry	losophy	
☐ Agriculture	Invention	Science	
X Architecture	Landscape	Sculpture	
☐ Art	Architecture	Social/Human-	
☐ Commerce	Literature	itarian	
☐ Communications	Military	Theater	
☐ Conservation	Music	Transportation	
STATEMENT OF SIGNATURE			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Clark Mansion, or "Holly Rood," was constructed by Governor James Clark (1779-1839) in 1813 for his personal residence. It was named "Holly Rood" after the home plantation of Mrs. Clark's father in Virginia. Originally, the home sat on several hundred acres of ground which is now the southwestern portion of Winchester. Considering the importance of Governor Clark, the mansion is thought to be one of Winchester's most important historic buildings. Governor Clark is buried approximately two hundred yards to the rear of the house.

Born in Virginia in Bedford County, Clark moved to Kentucky with his parents at an early age. He returned to Virginia to study law and was admitted to the bar in 1797. In 1798 he returned to Kentucky and opened a law practice in Winchester.

Clark had an impressive career in public life. He was a member of the Kentucky Legislature, a judge of the Court of Appeals (1810-1812), a circuit judge to the Local Circuit (1817-1824), elected to Congress in 1825-1831, and elected the Governor of Kentucky in 1836 (Whig Party). He died in office in 1839.

Architecturally, "Holly Rood" is an example of the simplicity which Kentuckians employed in rural areas during this period. Once the Clark Mansion commanded a prominent place in this area and, even though the land is gone, it would be possible to return the house to a place of prominence within the city.

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Form 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
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COUNTY	
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FOR NPS USE ONL	Υ
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
1 3 1974	

(Number all entries)

7. Description (Continued)

between. The interior detailing resembles the exterior in its simplicity. Although heavy and wide it lacks any substantial degree of coving, capping, beading, etc. In its present state, the woodwork is not outstanding but is original. A portion of the original floor is still intact. The planks are 8" + wide and either poplar or ash.

The structure, considering its lack of attention, is in relatively good shape and suitable for restoration, both structurally and historically.

