KENTUCKY HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site No.</th>
<th>JF-531</th>
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1. Historic Name(s)  
Linciff

2. Original Owner  
William R. Belknap

3. Location  
6100 Longview Ln, Louisville, Ky.

4. Owner's Name  
Mrs. Helen Combs

5. Owner's Address  
1141 Rostrevor Circle Lou, Ky. 40205

6. Open to Public  
Yes

7. Visible from road  
Yes

8. Ownership  
Private

9. Local Contact/Organization  
Jefferson County Office of Historic Preservation and Archives

10. Site Plan with North Arrow

11. Architect  
See next page

12. Builder  
unknown

13. Date  
1911-1912

14. Style  
Georgian Rev.

15. Original Use  
single family Res

16. Present use  
unoccupied

17. Condition  
Excellent

18. Description  
see next page

19. History  
see next page

20. Significance  
see next page

21. Source of Information  
see next page

22. ADD/County  
Jefferson/Jefferson

23. U.S.G.S. Quadrant (15'/75')  
G.I.S. Mod.

24. UTM Reference  
Zone Easting Northing

25. Coordinate Accuracy

26. Prehistoric Site Object  
Yes

27. National Register District Name:

28. Significance Evaluation  
Meets N.R. Criteria

29. Status  
National Landmark

30. Historic Theme  
Architecture

31. Endangered

32. Preservation Project Status

33. ATTACH PHOTO

34. Prepared by  
Mary Jean Kinsman

35. Organization  
Office of Historic Preservation and Archives

36. Date  
1979

37. Revision Dates  
1983

38. Staff Review
11. There has been an oral attribution to a "Boston architect", name unknown. However, on the basis of several sheets of original plans bearing the office stamp of Kenneth McDonald and William J. Dodd, the house is believed to have been designed by them.

18. Lincliff is a three-story, stuccoed structure with a hipped roof, dormers, and interior chimneys. The windowsills, lintels, and quoins are of limestone. The horizontal plan incorporates a rather simple entry on the south facade which leads through a compact vestibule and staircase to a transverse hall lined with north-facing windows. The hall, which has an elaborate, plaster strapwork ceiling, terminates in a parlor or salon at the west end and in a service wing at the east end.

Numerous rich details enhance the interior. Two oak-paneled rooms - the billiards room and library - have carved mantels. The salon mantel is of green and white marble with a bas-relief bust and garland ornament. On the north side of the house is a stone terrace overlooking the Ohio River. There have been no additions or alterations to the house.

The house is surrounded by sweeping lawns with many large trees and extensive gardens. The firm of Olmsted Brothers of Brookline, Massachusetts, is known to have done some work for Mr. Belknap, and this possibly included the walled formal garden west of the house. In the 1940s and 1950s, garden designs were planned by Mary Louise Speed, a Louisville landscape architect. The site also contains two stuccoed cottages built in 1911-12, probably for servants, a gardener, or caretaker.

19. Lincliff was built in 1911-12 for William R. Belknap, president of W. B. Belknap and Company, then one of the largest wholesale hardware firms in the Midwest. The company, established in the 1840's by Belknap's father, William Burke Belknap, still exists as Belknap, Inc. Members of the Belknap family have long been active in civic, cultural, and philanthropic affairs in Louisville. William R. Belknap employed architects Kenneth McDonald (1852-1940) and William J. Dodd (1862-1930) of Louisville to design Lincliff. Their partnership from 1906 to 1913 was responsible for designing many fine buildings and residences in both the city and suburban areas. (See JF532, Brandeis House, and JF626 Citizens National Life Insurance Building, National Register November 1977.) They frequently worked in Georgian and Colonial Revival styles, and classical details were important elements of their designs.

The estate was sold out of the Belknap family in 1922. In 1945 it was purchased by the C. Edwin Gheens family. Mr. Gheens owned the Bradas and Gheens Candy Company, and both he and his wife were prominent in the community. His widow, later Mrs. Richard H. Hill, was involved in many civic and philanthropic causes. She lived at Lincliff until her death in 1982.
20. Lincliff is architecturally significant as a fine early 20th century Georgian Revival mansion. It was the work of an outstanding architectural partnership in Louisville, and was designed and built for one of the city's most prominent businessmen. Like so many other Upper River Road sites of the period, Lincliff emphasizes the aspirations of its builders in a manner which, although sometimes lavish to the point of extravagance, maintains a proper attitude of tradition, restraint, and task. The Georgian at Lincliff is "correct", that is, a harkening to proper British models, not the sort produced by colonial America.


"Handsome Houses", The Jeffersonian, Jeffersontown, Ky. 31 August 1911.


Jefferson County (Ky.) Deed Books; Will Books.
The nominated property comprises all of Lot 24 in County Block 11 of the Jefferson County Property Valuation Administrator: approximately 29.5 acres.

**Official Courthouse Property Reference:**
Description as recorded in Deed Book 5344 page 378, April 1983.