UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Frankfort

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUN 3 0 1980

Kentucky

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	SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS	
	OBJECT	IN PROCESS	XYES: RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC	
		BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED	INDUSTRIAL	TRANSPORTATION	
			NO	MILITARY	OTHER:	
4	OWNER OF	PROPERTY				
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6	REPRESENT	TATION IN EXIST	ING SURVEY	S		
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#### CONDITION

**CHECK ONE** 

**CHECK ONE** 

\_\_EXCELLENT \_\_DETERIORATED \_\_GOOD \_\_RUINS

\_\_UNEXPOSED

\_\_UNALTERED \_\_ALTERED

XXORIGINAL SITE DATE\_1812?;c1836 \_\_MOVED

#### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Hayfield is situated on a hill overlooking the south fork of Beargrass Creek, about five miles east of downtown Louisville. The house sits on a lot of approximately two acres. As with so many early country estates, the land around Hayfield has been subdivided and developed for private residences during the last two decades.

Hayfield is a two-story brick residence of Greek Revival design, with a long, narrow, two-story portion extending back at right angles from the rear of the main block. The present appearance is remarkably similar to that of a painting executed in the 1850s, about twenty years after the construction of Hayfield. The facade consists of three bays, each containing a rectangular, sash window capped by a geometric, carved lintel. The windows are shuttered, multi-light, and have additional narrow panes around their borders. Pilasters rising to a simple entabulature separate the windows in the second story. The Greek Revival doorway is central and framed by sidelights and transom with tracery. A one-story, Greek Revival porch extending across the facade is supported by columns with simple bases and capitals. The corner piers are square and slightly tapered, while pairs of similar piers flank the central steps leading to the entry. Between these square piers are two, round columns on each side. A decorative iron railing encloses the porch roof. The main roof is very low-pitched and contains four interior chimneys.

Single-story, brick-columned galleries run the length of the rear section on either side. This rear structure, which predates the construction of the main house, terminates in an ell which has a crenellated parapet. The two structures are connected by a second-story passageway.

Major alterations were made to Hayfield in 1940. The porch columns were rebuilt, though their original shape and configuration were respected. At the same time, the entrance, which once projected out to porch's edge forming an enclosed vestibule with side doors, was moved to its present location.

The original, interior plan of the main floor combined a central hallway with four rooms of about equal size. The 1940 alterations divided one of the rear rooms in order to create a kitchen, enlarged the hall, constructed a curving stairway, and added a large Palladian window in the Brench molding was also added to the interior walls. However, many original details remain to this day: marble fireplaces, oak- and maple-leaf carved woodwork, and round ceiling moldings.

Slave quarters, a stone springhouse, and a stone wall were destroyed during suburban development of the estate in the 1960s. The nominated area encompasses Lot 146 of Block 80-K of the city of Louisville. main house is the only building extant on the lot.

#### AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW PERIOD \_\_LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE \_\_COMMUNITY PLANNING \_\_RELIGION \_\_ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC \_PREHISTORIC \_\_CONSERVATION \_\_LAW \_\_SCIENCE \_\_1400-1499 \_\_ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC \_\_ECONOMICS \_\_LITERATURE \_\_SCULPTURE \_\_1500-1599 \_\_AGRICULTURE \_\_MILITARY \_\_SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN \_\_1600-1699 X\_ARCHITECTURE \_\_EDUCATION \_\_MUSIC . .THEATER \_\_1700-1799 \_\_ART \_\_ENGINEERING \_\_EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT \_\_PHILOSOPHY \_\_TRANSPORTATION 1800-1899ع<u>ـ</u> \_\_COMMERCE \_\_COMMUNICATIONS \_\_INDUSTRY \_\_POLITICS/GOVERNMENT \_OTHER (SPECIFY) \_\_1900-\_\_INVENTION BUILDER/ARCHITECT SPECIFIC DATES

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

1812? ; c1836

Built as a country home in the mid-1830s, Hayfield remains as one of the finest examples of Greek Revival architecture in Louisville. It has also been the residence of some of the community's most prominent citizens.

Major Thomas Lewinski?

The main house was constructed by Colonel George Hancock, a Virginian by birth who came to Kentucky in 1819. He first married Eliza Croghan, a niece of William and George Rogers Clark, and lived with her at Locust Grove. Upon her death in 1833, he married Mary Davidson the following year, and shortly thereafter built a new home which he named Hayfield. Hancock was a gentleman of taste and refinement, educated at Yale, and elected to the Virginia legislature. He was also a knowledgable and respected farmer who served as first president of the Jefferson County Agricultural and Mechanical Association.

There are several indications that Hayfield may be an early work of the English architect, Major Thomas Lewinski, who is best known for his work in Lexington, Kentucky in the 1840s and 50s. At least two later articles about Hayfield mention that Hancock brought one or more architects from England for the purpose of building his house. It is also known that Lewinski first lived in Louisville before moving to Lexington in 1842. Finally, Hayfield bears a striking resemblance to Lewinski's James B. Clay villa in Lexington (1845-46) in its floor plan, the pattern of window lights, and its use of interior chimneys. However, no conclusive evidence linking Lewinski to Hayfield has been found.

Mystery and contradiction are also connected with the older, rear portion of the house. It has been dated, by various accounts, to 1796, 1804, and 1806. The surrounding land was originally part of a 1787 military land grant to William Byrd. In 1790, the property was sold to Colonel John Thruston, an early trustee of the town of Louisville who came west at age 16 to fight with George Rogers Clark's regiment. Thruston built a retreat which he named "Sans Souci" and which may be the rear section of Hayfield. Other sources, however, attribute it to David L. Ward, one of the wealthiest men of his day. Ward is said to have built a ten-room mansion about 1804, though deeds show that Ward did not purchase the land from Thruston's heirs until 1812.

From 1847 to 1863, Hayfield was the home of Dr. Charles Wilkins Short, a world-reknowned botanist and a founder and dean of the Louisville Medical Institute, forerunner of the University of Louisville School of Medicine. Other prominent residents of Hayfield include George Danforth, who operated a large cattle farm in the late 19th century; Robert Tyler, a business tycoon and civic leader.

### 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Continuation Sheet.

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

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Hayfield

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

The unanswered questions surrounding Hayfield's construction do not detract from its importance as a significant link to Louisville's architectural and historical past. Despite suburban development, it retains all the grace and character that make it one of the finest of Louisville's early homes.

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Hayfield

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PAGE 2

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

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Hayfield

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PAGE 2

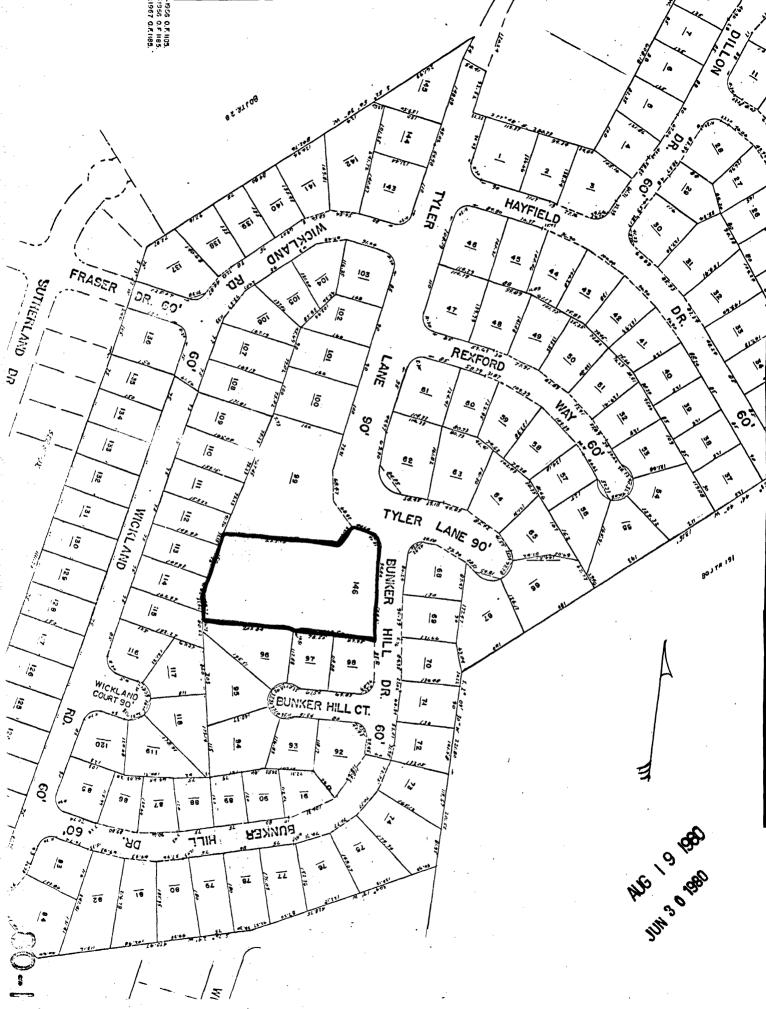
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Louisville, Ky. Not to Scale Map 2 1st floor plan PITA IS not to scale יאונונדווטי H U THE WATER STREET K., ٤. (ACOUNTED ASSESS) Hall D.R. L.R. IN NE 19 1980

Hayfield

Front

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Hayfield 1809 Tyler Lane Louisville, Jefferson, Kentucky

Map 1. Jefferson County
Real Estate Atlas.

April 24