

140009577

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>Kentucky</b>	
COUNTY: <b>Madison</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER <b>71.3.21.0003</b>	DATE <b>3/11/71</b>

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**Whitehall**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Clay Lane, 1 miles east of U.S. 25; 7 miles south of Richmond**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**(near) Richmond**

STATE <b>Kentucky</b>	CODE <b>21</b>	COUNTY: <b>Madison</b>	CODE <b>151</b>
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**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <b>now vacant-to be opened to public summer 1971</b>

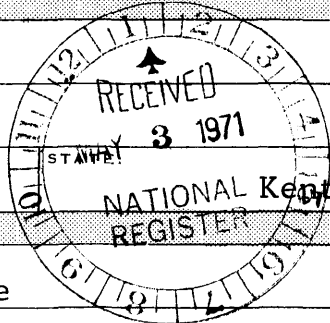
**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
**Commonwealth of Kentucky**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**State Capitol Building**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Frankfort**

STATE: <b>Kentucky</b>	CODE: <b>21</b>
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**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Madison County Courthouse**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Richmond**

STATE: <b>Kentucky</b>	CODE: <b>21</b>
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**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**Statewide Survey of Historic Places**

DATE OF SURVEY: **1969**     Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**Kentucky Heritage Commission**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**401 Wapping Street**

CITY OR TOWN: <b>Frankfort</b>	STATE: <b>Kentucky</b>	CODE: <b>21</b>
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
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DATE: **3/11/71**

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(restored) (Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Whitehall is in reality a complex of three separate buildings, a fact clearly evident from foundation to fabric. First stage construction dates from 1798 and forms a nucleus for later construction; stage 2 and 3 apparently began ca 1864 and ended 1868. Architecturally conservative elements of stage 1 and 2 in colonial and Georgian vernacular are subordinated to the dynamic, though oddly-proportioned Italianate third stage.

Foundations are of regular coursed stone ashlar; a complete foundation exists for each stage. Apparently to compensate for increased loading due to stage 3, brick piers were placed along inner foundation walls of stage 2 at critical points.

Wall Construction: Four separate masonry fabrics are visible: stage 1, stage 2, stage 3, repair or alteration. Stage 1 construction is of common bond masonry with header courses at intervals of eight; south elevation stage 1 is of Flemish bond. Stage 2 construction is of Flemish bond. Stage 3 construction is of common bond.

All four chimneys are of brick with stone caps. Those of stages 2 and 3 date from the final building period and are attributable to Thomas Lewinski.

Stage 1 door openings are set under flat lintels. Major access to stage 2 is through classicist portico. Stage 3 entrance door was double hung with long glazed panel above rectangular wood inset. Egg and dart derivative moldings within portico are set above flanking niches to either side of entrance aperture.

Stage 1 windows were 6/6 light double hung; stage 2 were 2/2 light double hung; stage 3 were 1/1 light. All facade window openings for stage 1, 2, and 3 are set under stone lintels; lintels are flat except those under round-arch opening (stage 3) which are semi-circular. Third floor windows (stage 3) of side pavilions are set under flat or semi-circular arch-openings of stretcher rowlocks.

Stage 1 and 2 roofs are metal-covered gabled roofs, ridges running east-west, shallow gable of central mass, stage 3 follows similar orientation; flanking masses of stage 3 are covered with Italianate cross-gable.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

brick walls

**6. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |  |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1798; 1863-64

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal             | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric            | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic               | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science              | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture            | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture           | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater              | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation       | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications         | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation           |   |   |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

A massive structure of unusual proportion, Whitehall is apparently the product of three building stages during the late 18th and 19th centuries. Continuously owned by the Clay family from 1798 until 1967, Whitehall is intimately associated with the extraordinary Cassius Marcellus Clay, abolitionist soldier, legislator, and diplomat. Whitehall stands on the site of a 2100 acre tract granted to General Green Clay by Governor Patrick Henry of Virginia in recognition of Clay's services during the Revolutionary War. At the death of General Clay, the property passed to his son, Cassius Marcellus Clay.

No architect was involved in the 1798 construction; General Green Clay was the builder. Thomas Lewinski was architect for stage 3 and evidence points to John McMurtry as co-participator in design. The stage 3 addition considered by Cassius Clay was to have been a five-bay extension of Georgian design. Apparently Clay's wife decided, however, to greatly enlarge the scale and radically alter the character of the project, the result being the Italianate design of Lewinski-McMurtry.

The principal figure associated with Whitehall is Cassius Marcellus Clay, who lived 1810-1903, and was known as the "Lion of Whitehall." Educated at Yale, he <sup>developed</sup> obtained anti-slavery views, and became an advocate of emancipation in Kentucky. As early as 1845, he became publisher of an abolitionist newspaper The True American in Lexington, Kentucky, but it was mobbed and suppressed because of his radical views of the negro.

Clay volunteered his services at the outbreak of the Mexican War and led a company of men in combat. He confessed

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

1. The Life of Cassius Marcellus Clay, Writings and Speeches, by Cassius M. Clay, Vol. I, Cincinnati, Ohio 1886.
2. "Cassius Marcellus Clay, The Sage of Whitehall, 1810-1903", by Beatrice Payne Morgan, unpublished M SS.
3. "Cash Clay, Yale Graduate, Minister to Russia," by J. Winston Coleman, Jr., 1962.

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	37°	50'	03"	84°	21'	14"			
NE	37°	50'	02"	84°	21'	04"			
SE	37°	49'	55"	84°	21'	05"			
SW	37°	49'	56"	84°	21'	15"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **13.6**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Charles E. Parrish, Secretary**

ORGANIZATION: **Kentucky Historic Preservation Review Board**      DATE: **4-23-71**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**401 Wapping Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Frankfort**      STATE: **Kentucky**      CODE: **21**

**12 STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION      NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National       State       Local

Name: *Joseph M. [Signature]*

Title: State Liaison Officer

Date: April 28, 1971

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

*Ernest A. Connolly*  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

*3/11/71*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:  
*William J. [Signature]*  
Keeper of The National Register

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

UTM  
 NE 16/73340/4190460  
 SE 16/73340/4190250  
 SW 16/732880/4190280  
 NW 16/732960/4190500  
**SEE INSTRUCTIONS**

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Kentucky	
COUNTY Madison	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
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(Number all entries)

#7. Description (cont'd)

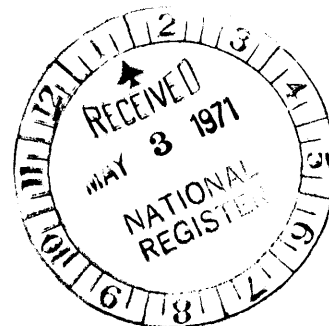
Widely-overhanging stage 3 eaves are supported by Gothic bracketing. Decorative brick pendants project from wall line under eaves. Less decorative bracketing is arbitrarily placed under stage 2 eaves, dates from mid- 1860s construction. Functional stage 1 eaves are unembellished, end above metal gutters.

Prior to purchase by Commonwealth of Kentucky, the interior had been seriously gutted and vandalized. The house contains 20 rooms, and 3 spacious halls. The doors are massive and panelled. An elegant ballroom contains stately Corinthian columns and elaborate plaster moldings and ceiling center pieces. Statuary niches adorn the entranceway to the ballroom.

The stage 3 "plumbing system" is extant. Rainwater was drained into a tank under the roof, from which lead pipes ran to a zinc-lined, wood-encased bathtub and crude commode; drainage from these fixtures was piped to a cesspool below grade.

Whitehall is sited in a gently-rolling and lightly-wooded area of the Bluegrass, approximately 1 mile south of the Kentucky River. The surrounding site is predominately agricultural, although groves and natural vegetation visually define "a yard" to the east.

Whitehall has undergone extensive interior and exterior restoration, and will be opened to the public in summer 1971 as a Museum and Shrine to Cassius M. Clay.



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# 8. Statement of Significance (cont'd)

later that he enlisted as a matter of expediency to gain the military prestige that would give him an influential following for emancipation in Kentucky.

In his personal and often <sup>n</sup>lovely crusade for emancipation, the pistol and bowie knife became his constant companion, to which he turned numerous times for defense and safety.

Clay became closely involved with politics on a national level and backed Abraham Lincoln in the 1860 Presidential election. From 1863 to 1869, he served as Minister to Russia, returning to Whitehall after he left that post. In 1873, Clay and his wife, Mary Jane, were separated, and divorce followed in 1878.

For the remainder of his life, Clay lived at Whitehall with remarkable activity. At the age of 84, he married a teen-aged wife, who left after about two and a half years.

Clay lived alone at Whitehall for six more years and died on July 23, 1903, amid a tempetuous tornado which struck a large portion of the Bluegrass region.

