United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form  

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

Historic Name: Kinkead House  
And/or Common Name: Living Arts & Science Center

2. Location

Street & Number: 362 Walnut Street  
City, Town: Lexington  
State: Kentucky  
County: Fayette

3. Classification

<table>
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<th>Category</th>
<th>Ownership</th>
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4. Owner of Property

Name: Living Arts & Science Center, Inc.  
Street & Number: 362 Walnut Street  
City, Town: Lexington  
State: Kentucky

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.: Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government Courthouse  
Street & Number: 215 West Main Street  
City, Town: Lexington  
State: Kentucky

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Title: Kentucky Historical Resources Inventory  
Has this property been determined eligible?  
Yes  
No

Date: 1981  
Federal  
State  
County  
Local

depository for survey records: Heritage Division, Kentucky Department of the Arts  
City, Town: Frankfort  
State: Kentucky
Description

The Kinkead House is located in still fairly extensive grounds on the southeast corner of Walnut and East 4th streets, with Campsie Place (developed from the Kinkead property after the turn of the century) on the south side and the rear of properties on E. 4th St. and Campsie Place rather close behind the house on the east. Impressive trees and planting define the property, which is accessible by a drive off Campsie Place, a block-long street of medium-size brick or brick-veneered dwellings. The Kinkead House, originally a two-story brick single-family dwelling, was remodelled at least twice during the Kinkead family occupancy.

Probably built in the late 1840s as a Greek Revival townhouse with the service wing projecting on the north side (the house faces west toward Walnut St.), it was Italianized probably shortly before or after the Civil War, with the addition of a third-floor attic and probably a two-story section on the north of the main block. (Photo 1) Probably near the turn of the century the residence was subdivided, with one or more units approached through a new entrance onto 4th St. (Photo 5); at this time other additions and enclosures or porches may have been made on the rear portions (Photo 2), and the upper part of the main staircase was altered somewhat.

The original front facade of the townhouse had two stories (with perhaps a plain attic) and three bays; it is unlikely that it was articulated by the present full-height pilaster strips. The slightly set-back north wing, of which the front rooms may have been a Civil War-era addition, has a pair of narrower pilaster strips flanking the single front bay. The foundations of the front only, from which the pilasters (once painted white) rise, is of fine ashlar masonry, probably the local "Kentucky marble." Integral to the original construction is the one-story entrance porch over the north bay of the townhouse section, (Photo 3), whose few steps ascend between stone antepodia. A pair of Doric columns on low concrete bases (probably not original) supports an appropriately plain entablature, without pediment. The entrance itself is slightly recessed between panelled pilasters; narrow sidelights of frosted and etched glass (with smaller panes at top and bottom) surround the handsome double door with single vertical panels and original plain brass hardware, leading to a vestibule with inner doors.

The original portion of the building probably included the entrance stairhall with double parlors opening into each other on the right (south), with a two-story service wing extending to the rear from near the back of the north side of the main block. The ell consisted of an elegantly plain backstairs, with a pair of service rooms behind on each floor and possibly an additional front room on both floors in front of these stairs, which run north-south. All these sections have plain Greek Revival woodwork, with shoulders (or cressets) on the frames of the front block, except for the parlor frames, which have full entablatures. The woodwork of the various additions is similar, but with a more Italianate character. There was probably originally a gallery, later enclosed, along the south side of the ell, and perhaps across the rear of the main block (see the 1855 map).

Windows are mostly 6-over-6 pane sash, with thin stone sills and brick jack arches although the later windows on the rear sections vary. The attic windows are low rectangles divided vertically, set between pairs of Italianate brackets on the main block, with single or double, slightly different brackets on the ell sections. All the brackets are scalloped, those on the main block having cut-out centers (see Photo 5). The added north entrance (in its own two-story pavilion) has heavy Italianate consoles on a raised-panelled
8. Significance

<table>
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Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The George B. Kinkead House, now the Living Arts & Science Center, is an antebellum mansion important both historically and architecturally. Originally a large-scale Greek Revival townhouse (although then in a suburban setting on the outskirts of town), it was sympathetically enlarged during the Civil War period with Italianate features, for members of the Kinkead family who had originally built it and who owned the property until 1982. Notable features are the Doric entrance porch, plaster ceiling medallions, Grecian marble mantels, and plain but handsome woodwork from both building phases. The house was built for the Honorable George Blackburn Kinkead (1811-77), one of Lexington's most distinguished mid-19th century attorneys. Unlike many upper-class citizens of the Bluegrass during the Civil War, he was definitely pro-Union and provided solid support for his views after the war by developing a black residential area, known as Kinkeadtown, on nearby property. His widow, and other members of the family who continued to live here until recently, were also social, cultural, and civic leaders. The present owner and occupant is a non-profit educational organization with plans to stabilize the building while recognizing its historic architectural character. Thus, both the structure and the Center will continue to provide an urbanistic anchor for its somewhat deteriorated but currently improving residential neighborhood not far from downtown Lexington.

The Kinkead family was very exclusive, however, and little published material other than laudatory obituaries and official biographical sketches of the male attorneys in the family remains. Even the legal records, including the deed for the presumed acquisition of this property by George B. Kinkead in the 1840s or '50s, are scant or missing. His 1874 will, for instance, left everything to his "dear wife, absolutely. As there will be abundant assets to pay what debts I owe, I direct that no inventory or appraisement of my estate be made." Unusually, even for this period, Kinkead's sales of property do not refer to the original purchase. Only one interesting note has emerged from intense perusal of the Fayette County legal records concerning these Kinkeads: in March 1850 George B. Kinkead replaced Ninian Edwards as attorney for "Abraham Lincoln and Mary Todd Lincoln, his wife," among others.

In any case, it seems likely that George B. Kinkead (or his wife) acquired this property and had the house constructed in its original Greek Revival form shortly after his marriage in 1846 to Elizabeth Pearce of Louisville. The architect was probably Major Thomas Lewinski, an English-born architect, engineer, and teacher of foreign languages. Of Polish extraction, he had come to Lexington from Louisville about 1840 and designed many of the finest and most characteristic "Blue Grass" buildings during the 1840s and '50s before devoting himself to the position of secretary of the recently established Lexington Gas Company. Lewinski's clients included members of several branches of the Clay family (both statesman Henry and Abolitionist/diplomat Cassius Marcellus), and others of the social and economic elite of the area. It was perhaps also he who was architecturally responsible for the enlargement of the house in an Italianate vein before 1877.

(continued)
10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property: 1.39 acres

Quadrangle name: Lexington East, Ky.

Quadrangle scale: 1:24000

UMT References

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Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Walter E. Langsam, Architectural Historian and Preservation Consultant

organization: Lexington-Fayette Co. Historic Commission
date: January 1982

street & number: 253 Market Street

telephone: (606) 255-8312

city or town: Lexington

state: Kentucky 40508

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

- national
- state
- local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature: Mary Robinson Appel

date: 5/20/82

For NPS use only

Keeper of the National Register

Chief of Registration

date: 6/29/82

date: 6/29/82
frame (Photo 5). The two-bay porch across the rear of the double parlor has brackets over the plain square (replaced) posts (Photo 2), but a shallow porch along the north side of the ell has delicate posts with openwork spandrels that probably date from the first Italianate campaign; the two of the posts extend to the ground, while the third rests on a raised platform (Photo 4).

The low hipped roof, of standing-seam metal with extended eaves, has gables over round-arched attic openings in the center of each side except the rear of the main block. Wide chimneys on the side of the main block and in the center of the original ell have shallow recessed panels on their faces, and corbelled brick trim at the top; a break is visible where the panelled upper portions were presumably added in the second campaign (see Photo 2).

One-story semi-octagonal bay-windows have been added on the south side of the ell and on the north side of the front room of the north side. There are no outbuildings, although two two-story brick dwellings behind the house on E. 4th St. were formerly associated with the property.

The main interior rooms have been remarkably little altered, retaining high ceilings, ample proportions, and mostly original woodwork. The main staircase is rather plain (Photo 6), although the return at the top has been altered with some "Queen Anne" panelling below the return; the continuation to the third story or attic is probably original. The double parlors have full-height panelled pilaster frames with entablatures continuous with the original crown-molding. Fine recessed plaster chandelier medallions here are based on Minard LaFever patterns (see Photo 6). Plain but handsome Grecian mantels of slightly veined black marble support fine Renaissance Revival overmantel mirrors that may date from the second phase (Photo 7). The pairs of rooms on the left (north) in front of the back staircase have applied ornament on the cornerblocks of the pedimented frames (Photo 10), and slightly heavier Italianate moldings; although the rectangular black marble mantels downstairs in this section match those of the parlors, the second-story mantels are round-arched marbled castiron.

The front downstairs room in this wing has been fitted up as a library, with handsome built-in bookcases (Photo 10). Woodwork upstairs is plainer, especially in the original service ell, where there are original plain wooden Greek Revival mantels, as on the first floor of the ell. Because of the additions, the attic space on the third floor has become quite complex with a variety of ceiling heights and floor levels.

A number of castiron grate frames and covers remain in the mantels, and there is a superb late 19th-century chandelier, originally for gas, (Photo 9), in the front hall. Plumbing has generally been confined to the additions and there has been minimal intrusion of storage space and utilities in the main block.

The use of the building in the last decade or so as a teaching institution has had minimal physical affect on the building, although its condition has somewhat deteriorated; it is hoped that the structure can at least be stabilized in the near future, now that the institution has gained ownership of the property.
Architectural historian Clay Lancaster suggests, based upon interviews with family members, that the dwelling was enlarged after 1853. Unfortunately it is not possible to determine from the 1855 map and 1856 view whether it had yet been enlarged, as the plan was not noticeably affected by the additions. The present Doric entrance portico is clearly shown in profile in the 1856 view, however, and a gallery across the back of the main block and along the southside of the ell is shown on the 1855 map. The 1871 bird’s-eye view of Lexington, taken from the northwest, shows the new entrance on the north side, with a one-story section in front of it, as well as the third-story attic windows. It seems likely that there were other changes made slightly later, however, to permit the division of at least part of the rear of the mansion into apartments, probably after the death of Mr. Kinkead in 1877.

Surely dating from the original Greek Revival phase are the small but bold Doric distyle entrance portico with its stone pedestals, the plain entrance with sidelights, most of the basic interior frames, the elegantly simple main staircase (although the return to the second-story level has been altered), and the superb black marble mantels in the double parlor, which have recessed Grecian chandelier medallions based on a pattern book by Minard Lefever. The pilaster strips on the front of the original right wing are possibly original, extended upward to the new bracketed cornice in the 1870s, but the slender double pilasters on the left wing, along with the low-standing-seam metal roof and shallow gables, belong to the Italianate phase.

George Blackburn Kinkead was born in 1811 in Woodford County, Ky., where he began the study of the law after being graduated from Transylvania University in 1830 (he later taught at Transylvania during the great days of its Law Department). He was trained and later became the partner of several of the most distinguished attorneys of his day, including Judge Boyle, Dr. Louis Marshall, Vice President John Cabell Breckinridge, and Richard Buckner. He practiced in Paris and Versailles with his distinguished elder brother, Judge William B. Kinkead, and was appointed commonwealth attorney at an early age. He moved to Lexington in about 1846, perhaps upon the time of his marriage. In that year Governor Owsley appointed him secretary of state, a position he filled effectively, although he never ran for office on his own.

Apparently his "earnest but unpopular opinions on the slavery question," as the author of the Lexington Bar's official tribute to him after his death delicately puts it, "caused him to refrain from looking toward political preferment." Although his antebellum association with Abraham Lincoln and his family may only have been incidental, Kinkead was evidently anti-secession and pro-Union. Shortly after the war he developed Kinkead town for freed blacks near the family home, as mentioned above. This was apparently not, as was sometimes the case, in order to provide housing for workers in a family factory, but simply in recognition of the needs of the black population—including perhaps some of his own family's former slaves—who were rapidly moving from rural areas into the city.

George B. Kinkead's widow, Mrs. Eliza Pearce Kinkead, survived him over a quarter of century. Referred to in her 1904 obituary as a "beloved woman...of splendid intellectual attainments and great strength of character," she was the mother of
nine children, most of whom were distinguished in their own rights and also married with some of the leading intellectual and social figures of the area.

Members of the Kinkead family donated the property in 1981 to the Living Arts & Science Center, a non-profit educational institution that has occupied the building since 1970. This organization provides classes and other activities in the arts, crafts, and natural sciences to children, senior citizens, and others. It is expected that with ownership the center, which initiated this nomination, can now stabilize and to some extent renovate the structure while protecting its historic and architectural value.

1. Fayette County Will Book
2. Fayette County Deed Book
3. See Biographical Encyclopaedia (1878), pp. 163-64, for basic biographical information on Kinkead.
4. On Lewinski, see Clay Lancaster, "Major Thomas Lewinski: Emigré Architect in Kentucky," Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians (December 1962), pp. 13-20. Lewinski's surviving account Book, from March 24, 1845, to July 6, 1847 (now in the Special Collections of the Margaret I. King Library at the University of Kentucky, Lexington), does not, however, mention this commission, according to recent research by William B. Scott.
6. "City of Lexington, Fayette Co., KY." (Louisville; Hart and Mapother, 1855); "View of City of Lexington, Ky." (Cincinnati: Middleton, Wallace & Co., ca. 1856)
8. Lancaster, Ante Bellum Houses, Fig. 111.
11. See Fayette County Deed Books, Index 1793-1904 under George B. Kinkead, ca. 1870-75.
12. Lexington Herald, 1/8/1904, p. 5; also Mastin, Herald-Leader, p. 46.
Kinkead House
Fayette County, Kentucky

CONTINUATION SHEET

Fayette County Deed and Will Books and Indexes. 


Additional information from William B. Scott, members and associates of the Kinkead family, and members of the staff of the Living Arts & Science Center.
The boundary begins at a point (1) at the northwest corner of the property (this point being approximately six feet south of the southwest corner of East Fourth and Walnut) proceeding northeast along the property line 265 feet to point 2, proceeding south, southeast and south along the rear property line encompassing points 3 and 4 to point five (the southern corner of the property) proceeding northwest along the property line 300 feet to point 5, then northeast with the property line 210 feet to the point of origin, thereby incorporating the house. (See Map 5.) No other buildings stand on this lot.
George Blackburn Kinkead House
Fayette County, Kentucky
J.T. Polmatary
1856
Scale: Unknown
Map 1 of 6
George Blackburn Kinkead House
Fayette County, Kentucky
Bimedis-Eye View of City of Lexington
1871 Scale
Scale: Unknown
Map 2 of 6
George Blackburn Kinkead House
Fayette County, Kentucky
Hart-Mapother Map of the City of
   Lexington, Fayette Co., Ky.
1855
Scale: Unknown
Map 3 of 6
George Blackburn Kinkead House
Fayette County, Kentucky
Sanborn Map
1907
Scale: 1" = 50'
Map 4 of 6
The Kinkead House
Fayette County, Kentucky
Planning Commission Map
Current
Scale: 1" = 100 ft.
Map 5 of 6

Nominated area shown in red.