United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

Historic name: Clemens-Caldwell House
Other names/site number: BOD 1, E. Caldwell House, BOD 1
Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

1. Location

Street & number: 2011 Harrodsburg Road
City or town: Danville State: Kentucky County: Boyle
Not For Publication: NA Vicinity: NA

2. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this **X** nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property _X__ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following

level(s) of significance: ___**national** ___**statewide** _**X**__**local**
Applicable National Register Criteria: ___**A** ___**B** _**X**__**C** ___**D**

Signature of certifying official/Title: **Craig Potts/SHPO** Date

Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official: **Date**

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

3. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

___ entered in the National Register

___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register

___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:) _____

_____

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

4. Classification

Ownership of Property

Private:	X
Public – Local	
Public – State	
Public – Federal	

Category of Property

Building(s)	X
District	
Site	
Structure	
Object	

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3	2	buildings
		sites
2		structures
		objects
5	2	Total **7**

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

5. Function or Use

Historic Functions
Domestic/Single Dwelling

Current Functions
Domestic/Single Dwelling

6. Description

Architectural Classification Greek Revival

Materials:
Principal exterior materials of the property: Log, Stone, Brick and Hardcoat Gunite Veneer

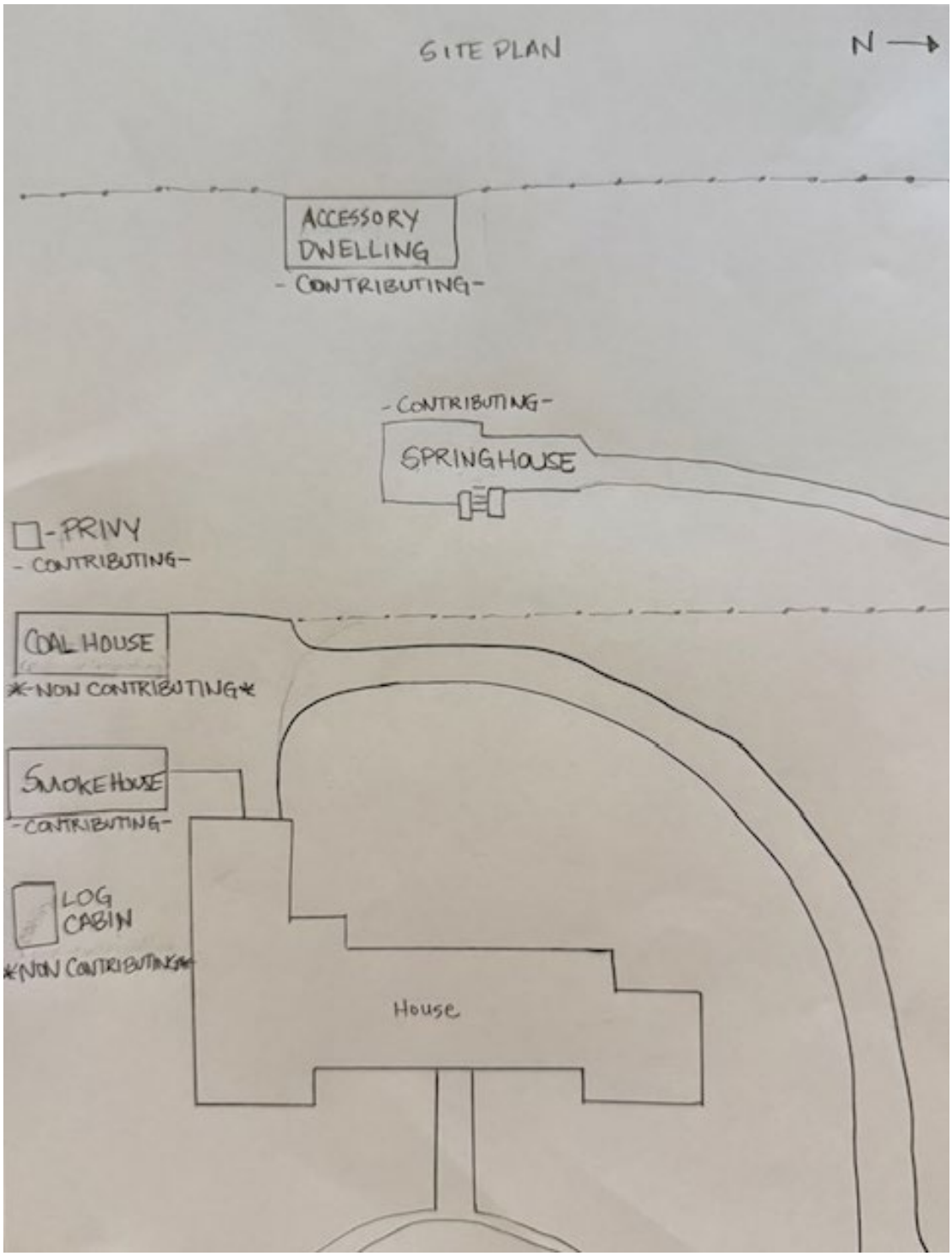
Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

The Clemens-Caldwell House (BOD 1) is a two-story log/stone/brick building with a rear ell. The earliest part of the house was built ca. 1780; its grand version was completed in 1875 in the Greek Revival style. It stands at 2011 Harrodsburg Road in the city of Danville, seat of Boyle County, Kentucky. Situated approximately 0.75 miles north of downtown Danville, the house is located on a 13.18-acre parcel of farmland. The house had its beginnings as a three-room log cabin on a 4000-acre tract of land, given as a dowry when Elizabeth Clemens married Charles Wickliffe Caldwell. The house was enlarged as the family grew; seven generations of Caldwells lived in the house from its construction until the death of Peggy Caldwell in 2017. The house sits afront a ground fed spring to its West and pastureland to the North, East and South. The house maintains original characteristics typical of Greek revival architecture with embellishments from the Federal style. The Clemens-Caldwell House commands the same (slightly askew) position along U.S. 127, where it is fully visible from the road. The area proposed for listing is 2.75 acres, and includes 3 contributing buildings, 2 contributing structures, and 2 non-contributing buildings.

Clemens-Caldwell House, Boyle County, KY Latitude 37.672851° Longitude -84.788916°

Entire property 13.18 acres Nominated Boundary 2.75 acres.



Site Plan incl. Contributing and Non-Contributing Features

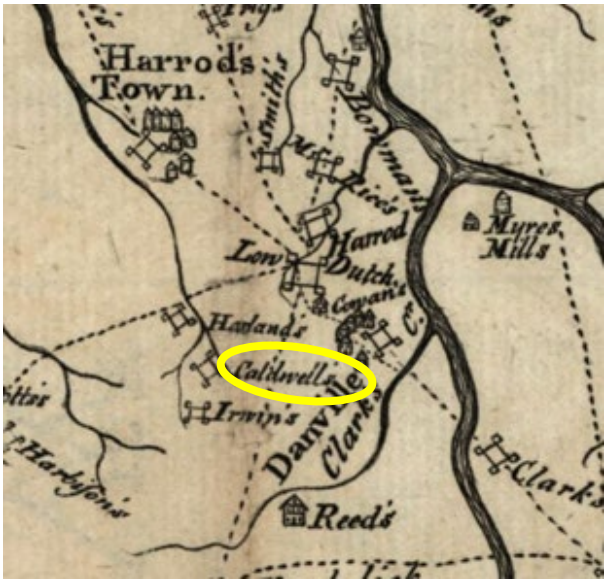
Physical Description of the site

The land ultimately settled by the Caldwell Family, lies just northwest of the city of Danville, Kentucky. The land immediately surrounding the house is relatively flat enveloped within the rolling hills characteristic of central Kentucky's Bluegrass region. A reigning feature of the site that would have been of paramount importance to the initial settlers is the underground spring that emerges just behind the main house. Further access to this freshwater extends to a few areas in the cellar over which the main house was built, but would have previous fallen outside of the footprint of the original log cabin. The soil of the adjacent pastures is of a very high quality, supporting the centuries long farming operation.

History of Ownership and Impact on Building

The Caldwell clan migrated to Boyle County from Scotland in the 1700s, arriving with over 27 relatives. Robert Caldwell, the son of Capt. John Caldwell arrived with his wife Mary, 11 children and their families. Initial settlement occurred at what would become Caldwell Station, near the banks of the Salt River in Boyle County (shown below on John Filson's 1784 *Map of Kentucke)* where they cleared the land, built cabins and produced substantial crops for the coming winter.

John Filson's 1784 *Map of Kentucke*



Detail of *Map of Kentucke*

In Spring of 1782, William Thomas Caldwell (Generation 1) moved to Washington County where he wed Mary Wickliffe of Bardstown and returned with her in 1787 to make a home on the property where the Clemens-Caldwell house stands today. The home at that time was a three-room log cabin; two rooms separated by a large fireplace with a loft above accessed by ladder. That structure is now the southwest ell in the back of the current house where the original log beams are exposed today.

Circa 1780 – Three Room Log Cabin – Later enclosed as Kitchen/Den

William and Mary's son, Charles Wickliffe Caldwell (Generation 2) married Elizabeth Clemens, and as their family grew they used the dowry provided by her father to expand the dwelling to include additional rooms on two floors to the east in what is now the dining room and master suite above. Incorporation of a staircase replaced the original ladder.

Circa 1840 - Initial Two Story Expansion w/ Staircase

Charles and Elizabeth's son, Jeremiah Clemens Caldwell (Generation 3) married Margaret Wilson and lived with parents Charles and Elizabeth (Betsy) in the home. They made no changes to the house in the short time they were married. They had two children, one of which died in

childhood. Their son Jeremiah Clemens Caldwell (Generation 4) lived in the house with his Grandparents (Charles and Elizabeth) after the early death of his father and departure of his mother soon after.

Jeremiah Clemens Caldwell (Generation 4) married Ann Bell Fox who bore five children. Ann Bell and Jeremiah added the North wing and substantial front addition with Greek Revival portico, which makes up the grand look of the house seen today. At his passing, Jeremiah Clemens Caldwell was Boyle County's wealthiest citizen and Chief stockholder of the Farmer's National Bank, having served as President and Director of the institution since its organization in 1877. He was further involved in various community businesses including tobacco warehouses, wholesale grocery, the New Gilcher Hotel and ownership of 4000 acres of farm land.

Circa 1875 - Final Expansion – North wing & Portico

Fontaine Fox Caldwell (Generation 5, Son of Jere and Ann Bell) married Monnie Tarkington in 1913. Together they substantially remodeled the house, removing the Victorian elements and consolidating seven first floor rooms into three great ones that exist today. The grand sweeping spiral staircase was incorporated into this renovation (thought to be completed around 1924).

Jere Clemens Caldwell II, (Generation 6) married Peggy Young in 1952. They had three children (Jane, Monnie and Fontaine Fox (Generation 7) and by comparison made modest updates to the home including enclosure of a rear sleeping porch in the 1960s to create the "Relic Room" which was used to display their vast collection of family antiques chronicling the Caldwell's settlement in North America, Virginia and ultimately, the Kentucky frontier. The couple also completed an extensive renovation of the den/kitchen following the death of their lifelong employee and houseman Dave Phillips in 1978. The need to cook their own food inspired the remodel including modern consumer appliances, replacing much older historic equipment. This was also when the log rafters of the original cabin were exposed. Following the departure of their children, Jere Clemens and Peggy lived in the home until their deaths in 2007

and 2017 respectively. Jere Clemens died in the same room in which he was born, as did his father and grandfather before him.

In 2017, the house was sold to an LLC out of Lexington, KY. It served as a venue for events and weddings until April 2024 when it was purchased by the current owners. Despite an arduous search through three county's records (Boyle, Mercer, Lincoln), this nomination's author was unable to complete a full table of deed transfers for the property throughout the Caldwell family. The various states of each county's indexing left much to be desired with deeds before 1842 being hand indexed and written in old English script. While the house stayed within the Caldwell family consistently, more than once it flowed through a network of Trustees and family attorneys, with Wills (or in the case of intestate deaths; Affidavit of Descents) obscuring the trail to the previous deed. Thankfully, a remaining local family member (a nephew of the last generation) agreed to be interviewed and provided a detailed oral history of the Caldwell's successional ownership of the house as well as a handwritten family tree tracing the Caldwell family back to their 1727 landing on American soil.

Description of Resources

Main House, contributing building

The Clemens-Caldwell house is a two-story, seven-bay log, stone and brick structure with a pitched roof in Greek Revival style. All exterior walls are covered in a hard-coat Gunite veneer that lend to its uniform or homogenous appearance. The main façade faces East with the center three bays recessed and crowned by a triangular pedimented center gable with a federal elliptical fanlight in the pediment. The center bay contains central doors on both floors accented by sidelights. A balcony spans the second-floor recessed area with balustrade featuring decorative urns. Four Ionic columns are located in front of this section, flush with the facade and support. The second floor's outer four bays are embellished with French renaissance ironwork simulating balconies. Side gables feature 27-pane Palladian windows with operational casements. A single-story rear ell attaches to the southwestern corner of the primary structure, including the kitchen and original log cabin whose beams are exposed throughout. Southern and Western facades include both covered and uncovered porch structures.

Clemens-Caldwell House, Front (East) Elevation

Construction methods and building materials used were log, stone, brick, mortar and eventually Gunite concrete veneer. The floor and ceiling joists are comprised of very long and roughhewn oak timber connected using both lap and mortise-tenon joinery. The age and condition of the wooden sub-structure varies throughout the house spanning eight to nine decades of material availability and construction technique. A 24-36" inch wide foundation of roughcut fieldstone supports the home. Initially the foundation was dry stacked but internal exposed areas have been tuckpointed with a lime and sand-based mortar as necessary over time. The Northern half of the house is served by a cellar area comprised of various rooms, each separated by previous stone external foundation walls that were present as the house expanded over time. The southern half of the house is built over an incredibly shallow (less than 12") crawl space which is mostly inaccessible. The walls of the house differ in thickness from older to more recently constructed rooms.

Front (South East) Approach

Front (North East) Approach

Front (East) side

The house's front elevation faces East and exhibits the classic symmetry embodied by Temple Form Greek Revival construction, seven-bays wide with three middle bays recessed, crowned by a pedimented crossing gable with an elliptical fanlight in the pediment. The center bay contains central doors on both floors accented by sidelights. A balcony spans the second-floor recessed area with balustrade featuring decorative urns. Four Ionic columns are located in front of this section, flush with the façade and support. The outer four bays on the second floor are embellished with French renaissance ironwork simulating balconies.

A focal point of the first-floor, the central formal entry door is generously oversized, standing eight feet tall and made from solid mahogany. It has six panels on its interior face, framed by simple molding on the exterior and has previously been painted white on all sides. Tripartite windows flank both sides of the entry door in the central bay. Two additional entry doors exist on the North and South end of the front porch, opening into the Library and Dining Room respectively. These French doors are six pane glass measuring 39" wide and 90" tall.

The roofline supports six visible chimneys and four dormers symmetrically surrounding the center pediment.

Side (North) Elevation

North side

The north face includes six faux windows covered by fixed dual panel slat shutters. The presiding gable includes a 27-pane tripartite Palladian window, crowned by two visible chimneys, and an abundance of ornamental trim work, including 47 hand carved corbels. A central air unit is found on this wall as is the house's gas meter.

West side

The west side best showcases the evolving construction of the overall house. To the southwest, the ell containing the original log structure can be seen clearly. Its attachment to the present

Rear (West) Elevation

"main house" is evident, as is the enclosure of a previous sleeping porch and the lower pavilion that was once a breezeway. The enclosure of these areas is believed to have occurred in the mid 1950-60s. The west approach provides full view of the house's 9 standing chimneys that are a visible landmark along US 127 and KY 34. The roofline features a continuation of the ornamental corbels supporting the house's extensive network of concealed box gutters. Nineteen windows are present on the west façade of various styles, sizes and construction, one of which resides in the rear's only 3rd floor dormer. All wooden window sashes appear to have been replaced during the last major renovation—in or around 1924, with even more recent updates to laminated glass panes in the 1980s. Entry/Exit doors on the west side include a wooden two-panel door, original to the enclosure and likely repurposed from earlier construction. The central cellar entrance accessed by 9-lite steel-clad double doors. A central air unit servicing the second floor is seen on the roof of the enclosed porch, obscured from the north approach by a painted plank fence panel.

Side (South) Elevation

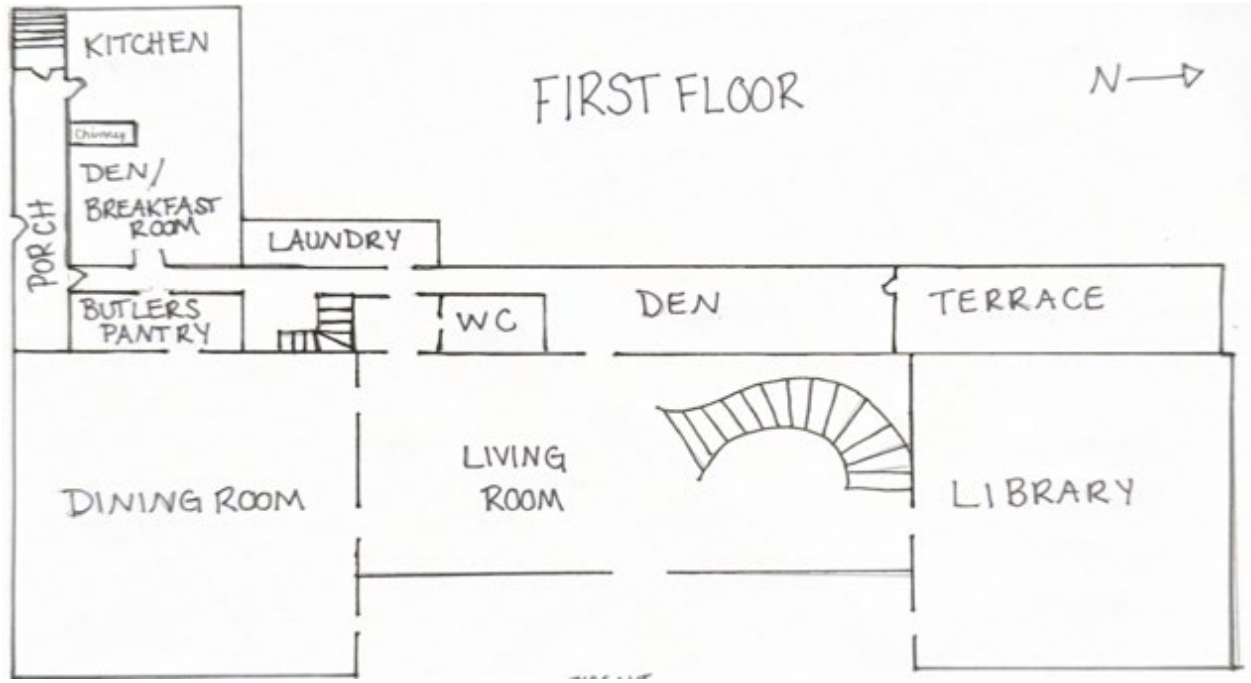
South and East Sides

South side

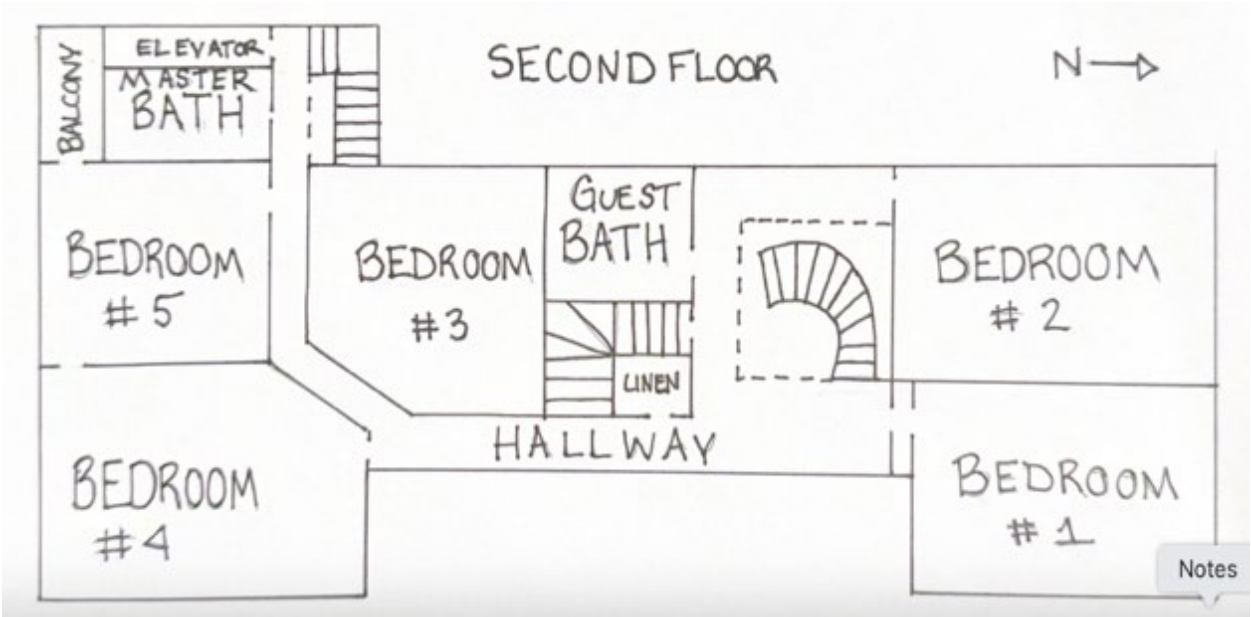
The south side is dominated by outdoor spaces that span most of the southern footprint. The first story porch is an enclosed breezeway that ran alongside the ell and its connection to the main house. Its previous arched openings have been updated with three sets of wood-framed glass sliding doors and one six-panel entry door flanked by single-pane sidelights, fitted with an aluminum storm/screen door. Above that on the second floor the smoking porch is visible, a small screened balcony that connects to one of the second-floor bedrooms as well as the master bathroom. The eastern portion of the south face is fenestrated by three double-hung six-over-six light windows. Above that, two more double-hung windows on the second floor. Within the third-floor gable we see presented a mirrored copy of the north wall's Palladian window and ornamental corbels and trim work. From the lawn to the south, part of the smoke house and root cellar are visible, as both less than 15 feet from the home's kitchen, as they would have served a cooling purpose in days prior to widespread refrigeration.

Interior Description of the House

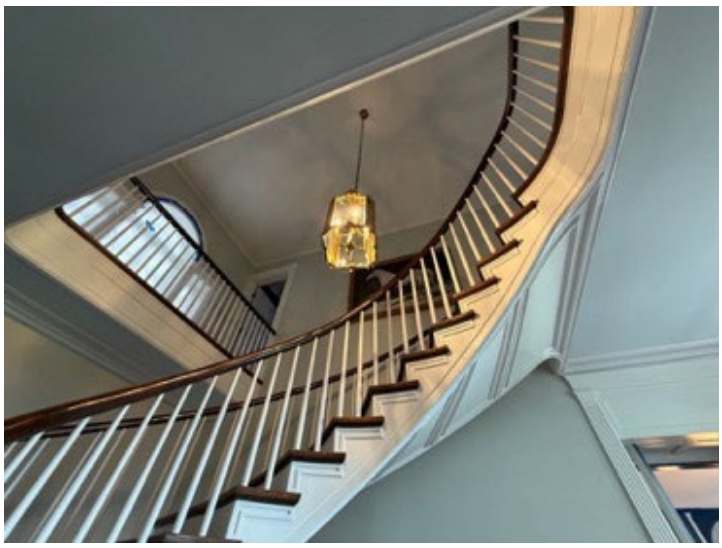
Entering the house through the front door opens to an expansive foyer stretching 33 feet long and 21 feet deep. To the left is a fireplace, centered on the wall flanked by French doors on both sides, and surrounded by wooden fluted pilasters supporting an embellished entablature. These doors lead into the dining room. To the right is an identical, single, set of French doors leading into the Library. A focal point to the left of those library doors is the spiral cantilever staircase leading to the second floor where it terminates in a two-story foyer.



First Floor Plan



Second Floor Plan

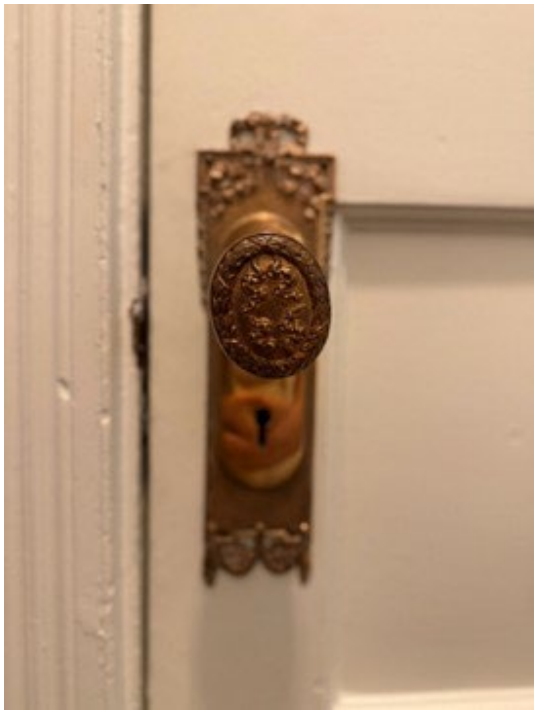


Simple turned wood spindles support the polished banister matching the treads said to be created from local Ash trees. The back wall of this room includes exits into previous additions. The door on the left leads into an anteroom between the foyer and first floor bathroom. The door on the right leading to the former relic-room, serving as a fireside den today. The door straight ahead leads to a laundry room a modest addition to house this modern convenience.

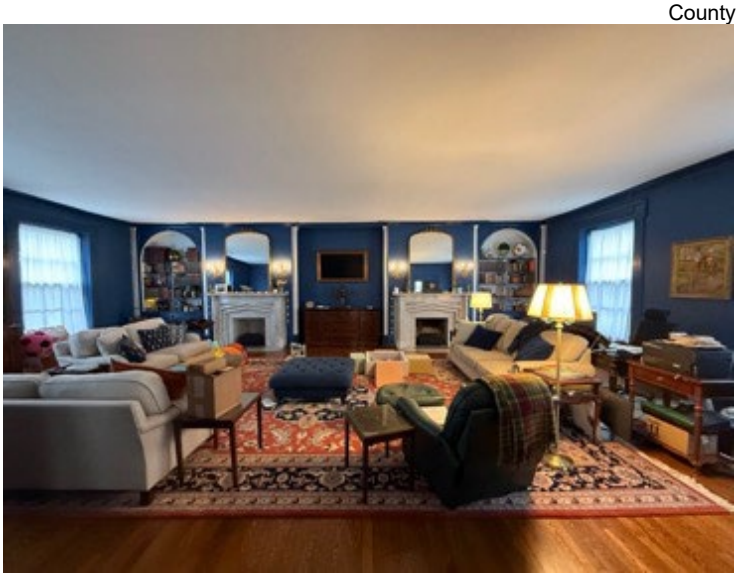
To the left is the back staircase and a hall that leads to the butler's pantry on the left and the kitchen and back den on the right. Just past the butler's pantry door is the elevator that leads to the second floor. When the elevator is on the second floor, an exterior door that leads to the covered porch area, on the south side of the house, can be seen. Heavy wooden moldings frame the doors and windows in the front three rooms (Foyer, Dining room and Library), which are the most public parts of the house. This sharp contrasts with the adjacent hallways and back rooms, clad with much more modest adornments, extending even to the intricacy of the door hardware.

The large front rooms have ceiling heights just shy of 10'. The dual fireplaces in both the Dining room and Library are indicators of each room's previous layout as two rooms that were unified during the large remodel to form the expansive rooms of today. All of the hardwood flooring in these front rooms is quarter-sawn white oak, service rooms off the back hallway are also hardwood but vary in species as well as orientation. All interior walls are covered with smooth plaster, made of lime and sand mortar, mixed with animal hair and small shells.

Heavy wooden molding framing the doors and windows in the front vs. back rooms



Examples of diffeent levels of ornateness on door hardware between public/private space



Looking North into the Library

A variety of mantels surround the six remaining first floor fireplaces. Of note, the twin Carrara marble mantels in the Library were procured by the family abroad and shipped back for use in their renovation.

Dual marble fireplaces in Library

The primitive mantel adorning the den's fireplace was repurposed from the original log cabin, a reminder of the house's genesis on Kentucky's rough frontier.

Mantel from original log cabin.

Updated mantel in entry hall.

Upstairs you will find all of the bedrooms. Immediately to your left at the top of the staircase you will find one of the two identical bedrooms in the north wing of the house. These span from the front to the back of the house and are connected by a pocket door. They each have the original wide plank poplar floors that have been stained, but not varnished. These rooms are the only ones that differ from the quarter-sawn white oak throughout the upstairs that match the flooring in the main three rooms downstairs. The north bedrooms have simpler molding than the rest of the house as well as more shallow insets around windows, indicating the variance in wall thickness from the older stone and log walls in the much older, southern portion of the house. Large closets obscure the original fireplaces that would have adorned these rooms prior to a renovation in the late 1950-60s.

At the top of the stairs, directly behind the landing, the foyer contains a tripartite Palladian window with two operational casements. While facing this window, to the left, directly across from the north side bedrooms, is a full bathroom. The door on the right, when exiting this bathroom, leads to the third floor which is currently unfinished. Continuing down the hall from the upstairs foyer is a linen closet with sophisticated built in cabinets and drawers on the right.

In the upstairs foyer is a door that leads to the second-story balcony over the front porch. This balcony connects the front bedrooms on either side of the house. The next door on the right will lead to the third bedroom that contains two different closets, one on each side of the room and connects to the back hallway through another door. The front hall ends at the master bedroom and continues right into a back hallway. The back hallway houses second entrances to the center bedroom on the right, and the dressing room on the left (adjacent to the master). There is an updated handicap accessible bathroom and the elevator door at the end of this hall, adjacent to the landing of the back staircase. These two rooms were presumably former service quarters. Census data up to and including 1920 cite the presence of house servants who lived alongside the family.

These spaces were updated around 2007 due to their proximity to the master suite, when the occupants required in-home care.

The master bedroom entrance includes a wide archway that separates the rooms entrance, including front balcony egress, from the room itself. There are three deeply inset windows with seat storage and ornate paneling and trim. The room features a fireplace with a simple mantel. Adjacent to the master bedroom is a fifth bedroom or *dressing room* featuring one inset window, a fireplace with detailed dental molding as well as a smoking porch. The porch is enclosed by screens with columns supporting the roof in alignment with the Greek revival architectural style. Two small French doors with a transom window above connect this dressing room to the smoking porch.

Other Features in the Area Proposed for Listing

Smoke House Contributing building (constructed ca. 1870)
A 43ft x16.5ft, two-story Smoke House sits adjacent to the southwest wing or ell. The structure is stucco over brick and stone with a standing seam metal roof and was used partially to smoke meat, and partially as living quarters for farm workers and even Centre College students around 1876. It maintains a few of the original wooden fixed casement windows and has fireplaces on both levels. It is rectangular in shape, split in the middle with residential quarters in the southern half, utilitarian space in the northern half.

Smokehouse

Coalhouse Non-contributing building (constructed ca. 1915)
A 40ft x 17ft, one-story Coalhouse made from Stone with a standing seam metal roof, sits opposite the driveway from the Smoke House, the structure has openings for windows that have long since been removed. It has a dirt floor.

Coal House

Log House. Non-contributing building. (Moved to site in 1950s)
A 18ftt x 16ft, two-story Log cabin that sits south of the house in the back garden. This structure was reportedly relocated to the site in the 1950s during the flooding to form Lake Cumberland. The structure originally served as a Ferryman's House near Rowena on the Cumberland River. It was disassembled and rebuilt and is currently in a state of mid-renovation begun by the previous owners. The roof material was removed and not reinstalled which caused damage to the internal structure and floor boards. The building includes a large limestone fireplace and wooden sash double hung windows.

Log House moved to site in 1950s

Accessory Dwelling. Contributing building (constructed ca. 1870)
A 41.5ft x 17.5ft, one-story dwelling used to house those working on the vast farm and the surrounding estate. This structure is stone with a standing seam metal roof and is in grave disrepair. A Northeastern exterior wall has collapsed as has the central chimney that separates the two internal rooms.

1870s Accessory Dwelling

Spring House. Contributing structure (construction date: unknown, before 1870)
A 10ft x 20ft dry stacked stone structure that is missing its roof covering. Stairs descending into spring are still present but in grave disrepair.

Stone Springhouse Ruins

Privy. Contributing structure (construction date: unknown, presumably by 1870)
A 5ft x 5ft wooden structure featuring a double bench for multiple simultaneous users and stone tank.

Privy

Changes to the Property Since the Period of Significance

According to accounts captured by the Danville Advocate Messenger, the Clemens-Caldwell House has been updated continually throughout its history as the house passed from generation to generation of the Caldwell family and prevailing styles of the day were observed by the then owners. The most material renovation seems to have occurred in the early 1900s when the seven Victorian rooms comprising the first floor were removed to create the three sweeping rooms present today. The traditional central entry hall with staircase was abandoned and a cantilever spiral staircase was added to the grand foyer (on the footprint of three original rooms). The second floor was reconfigured, creating five separate bedrooms and a state-of-the-art full bathroom located at the top of the spiral staircase landing. Based on closer inspection, we can see that the current roof structure was also added during this renovation, transitioning from the axe hewn woodwork of the original framing/floor joist to more modern saw cut timbers customary of the time. The roof structure was updated/upgraded to support the weight of an incredibly heavy slate roof, likely replacing a roof of standing seam metal, similar to other existing buildings on the property.

In the mid to late 1950s the last generation of Caldwells to inhabit the home (Jere Clemens and Peggy – Generation 7) would make a variety of updates to modernize the home to their tastes. At this time, the rear sleeping porch and breezeway were enclosed to create a sitting room, utility room and elevated rear terrace. They re-sashed the front windows (Eastern facing), updating them to laminated glass. Later in the 1970s, they proceeded to renovate the rooms comprising the rear ell, to create a modern kitchen fitted with consumer-centric appliances. Up until 1978, their houseman and butler Dave Phillips prepared the couple's food in a traditional, detached kitchen.

The house's hard coat Gunite veneer exterior has been painted numerous times, originally coated in a lime-based whitewash, it was most recently coated in a modern acrylic exterior paint by previous owners which has spurred a chain reaction of moisture issues on the interior and exterior of perimeter walls, since they no longer breathe properly. HVAC and Plumbing have also been updated over time, including most recently by the current owners who were unable to repair the HVAC systems installed by previous owners in 2017 and replaced existing galvanized plumbing with modern pex. Light masonry repairs to the hard coat veneer have been performed recently to alleviate further water intrusion.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

- [ ] A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- [ ] B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- [X] C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- [ ] D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

- [ ] A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- [ ] B. Removed from its original location
- [ ] C. A birthplace or grave
- [ ] D. A cemetery
- [ ] E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- [ ] F. A commemorative property
- [ ] G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance
Architecture

Period of Significance
Circa 1875

Significant Dates
Circa 1875

Significant Person
N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Unknown

Period of Significance (justification)

The house is being interpreted for the significance of its Greek Revival design. Within that perspective, the Period of Significance is chosen when the house's greatest incarnation of Greek Revival design was achieved, which was ca. 1875, when the largest portion of the main facade was completed. The house's exterior design, plan and finishes heavily feature elements of Greek Revival style, a popular style in both rural and urban Boyle County, and elsewhere in Kentucky from the 1820s until about 1880.

Statement of Significance

Summary Paragraph

The Clemens-Caldwell house (BOD 1) meets the first term of National Register Criterion C: it embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type of construction: Greek Revival style in Boyle County, Kentucky. The house's design significance is detailed within the following historic context, Greek Revival Style in Boyle County, Kentucky, 1875-1899. Within that context, a meaningful number of houses with the style have been found and recorded in the county, and form a comprehensive basis for comparison with the Clemens-Caldwell House. In comparison to those houses, the Clemens-Caldwell House retains hallmarks of the style such as wide distinctive trimboards, symmetrical composition, a heavy aesthetic from massive proportions, and reference to Greek temple forms. The Clemens-Caldwell house has long been perceived by the residents of Boyle County as an instance of the apex of Greek Revival design and solid construction. The house served as the control center for an expansive planting and farming operation across the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

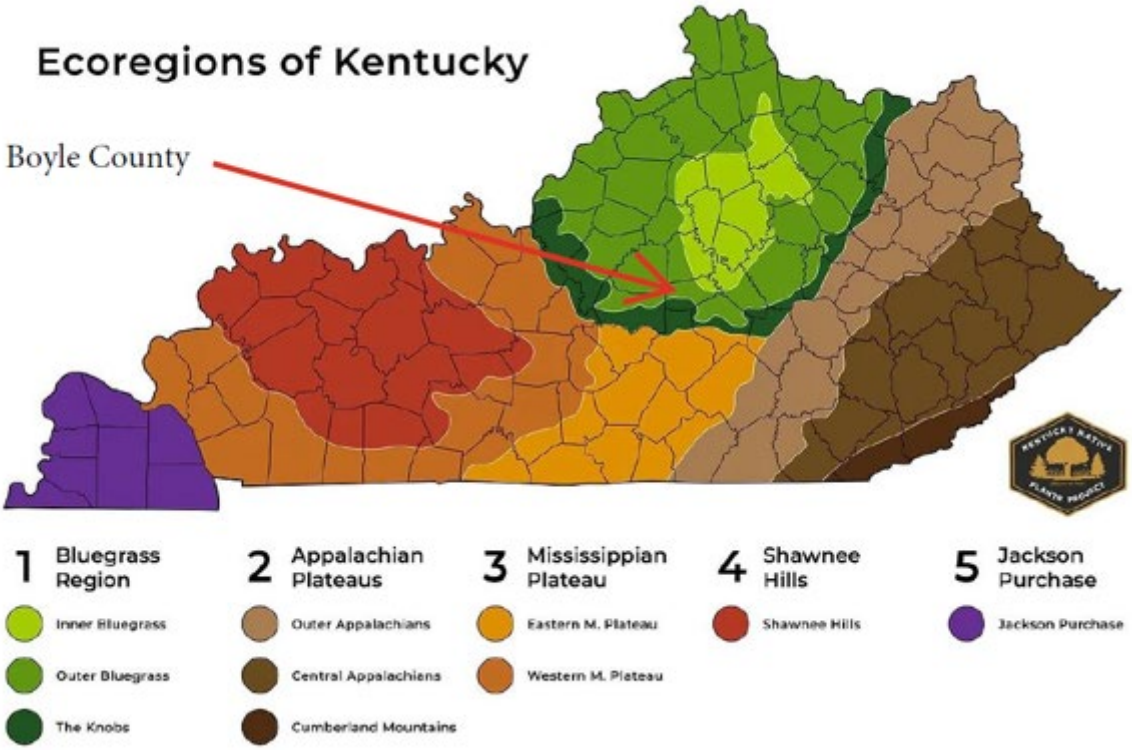
Historic Context: Greek Revival Style in Boyle County, Kentucky, 1875-1899

To gain sufficient perspective on the significance of the Clemens-Caldwell House's design, the survey database of the State Historic Preservation Office was queried for Greek Revival designed buildings in Boyle County. That search produced 128 properties with the style, including the Clemens-Caldwell House—not an insignificant number in a relatively small county. Houses with the style began to appear locally in the 1820s. Two factors—time and locale—were used to observe local patterns in occurrence of the style, which forms a framework by which to evaluate the nominated property's local architectural meaning and value.

The database search suggests the Greek Revival aesthetic influenced Boyle County architecture over a longer range of time than architectural guidebooks suggest. The SHPO's database assigns construction dates into intervals of 25 years, revealing that Boyle County's most frequent choice of the style in urban areas occurs early—during the 1825-1849 interval (12 instances). The database suggests that the county has 10 buildings of the style constructed before 1825; more likely, these were houses erected before 1825 in simple styling, which were then expanded and/or remodeled into the Greek Revival style during 1840-1860, when the style was most popular.

Construction Date	Rural House	Urban House	Total
Pre 1800	2	0	2
1800-1824	8	0	8
1825-1849	30	12	42
1850-1874	39	0	39
1875-1899	**3**	**1**	**4**
1900-1924	9	3	12
1925-1949	1	0	1
Unknown	13	7	20
All Years	105	23	128

Rural Boyle County has 105 instances of the style, with instances continuing to be built after the Civil War. It becomes clear during the 1850-1874 interval, that the Greek Revival style had lost social power in the urban setting, where no instances were found, while in rural Boyle County, the style continued to resonate. The continued life of the style in rural spaces is a telling difference between Boyle County's rural and urban tastes, suggesting a pattern to be found throughout the Inner and Outer Bluegrass regions of Kentucky, the state's earliest areas to be settled. The Clemens-Caldwell house, significantly remodeled in the Greek Revival style ca. 1875, can be recognized as one of the later implementations of the style locally, even in its rural situation, with over 75% of county's similarly-styled properties constructed pre-dating it by some margin.



If the results of this survey query are tabulated, a pattern can be observed that places significance on the Greek Revival house in a rural setting. That is, over 80% of the Greek Revival structures constructed in Boyle County were built on expansive rural surrounds. During the period of examination, less than 30% of Greek Revival structures were built in an urban location. The style sees its highest prevalence in rural Boyle County during the years surrounding the Civil War (1850-1874), with a sharp decline in the decades following when the Clemens-Caldwell house adopted the style.

While there is significant evidence of architectural pattern books circulating Kentucky during this time period, it's clear that the Greek Revival style was widely embraced but adapted to local conditions and resources. The availability of brick, thanks to local producers like the Russell

family, would have been a major factor in the local construction of the style. When assessing adherence to the core tenets of Greek Revival architecture across Boyle County and central Kentucky, one notices that interpretation of the style was not uniform, resulting in a spectrum of structures dotting the region.

The prevalence and execution of the style in Boyle County was intricately linked to the socio-economic fabric of the region. Landowners—the Planter Class and local elite—possessed the resources to adopt contemporary styles such as Greek Revival as an expression of their status. Moreover, their adherence to and inclusion of high style Greek Revival features was typically more robust given their extensive resources and their desire to display their economic status, wealth and social aspirations. The agrarian economy and the underlying social structure undoubtedly shaped the resources and priorities that informed these architectural choices. By the 1850s, Victorian era styles were beginning to supplant Greek Revival as the fashionable way of displaying one's culture and elite status. The Victorian era styles began to appear in Danville as soon as the 1850s, but farmers in Boyle County continued choosing the Greek Revival because it remained a viable way to transmit one's status and accomplishment. By the start of the Civil War, the Greek Revival style had become iconic within rural Kentucky, and so, remained a popular method of indicating one's social standing in rural arenas for much longer than it did within the Commonwealth's towns.

History of the Clemens-Caldwell House

The Clemens-Caldwell House was built over a period of 95 years, beginning with the original three room log cabin dating to 1780 and the final addition completed circa1875 that homogenized the various additions, lending to the house's current symmetrical appearance. Today the house sits on just over 13 acres, having been parceled off over time from the original 4,000-acre farm, amassed by Charles Wickliffe Caldwell, the result of a dowry received for his marriage to Elizabeth Clemens.

The Caldwell family's presence in this spot spanned seven generations starting in 1789. Each generation left their mark on the property and on the nearby town of Danville, where they were integral in its development and industries. Most notable of which may have been Jeremiah Clemmens and Ann Bell Fox Caldwell – the couple responsible for the most ambitious expansion of the family house which incorporated the Greek Revival embellishments asserted as emblematic and significant today. A product of his upbringing, Jeremiah (born Charles) was heavily influenced by his Grandparents, Charles and Elizabeth Caldwell. At one year old, his father Jeremiah Clemens Caldwell Sr. passed away, leaving two sons and their mother, Margaret, who later eloped with William Redding, a portrait artist she had hired to reside with the family. Orphaned by both of his parents, Charles endured further loss at age 10 when his older brother, Jeremiah, passed away. Charles and Elizabeth, the grandparents, despondent over the loss of their son Jeremiah 9 years before, and the new loss of their grandson Jeremiah, changed the name of their living grandson from Charles to Jeremiah, in response to their grief.

Jeremiah Clemens Caldwell Jr (born Charles Wickliffe) is recounted by his family as initially resenting his ancestors' great accomplishments being thrust on him as a boy having faced so

many obstacles himself early on. However, later as an adult he gave much credence to his extremely conservative upbringing, which came with a tremendous work ethic, which would bestow great fortune on him and his wife Ann Bell Fox. It was this success and wealth that motivated Jeremiah to further signify to his community just how prosperous and powerful the Caldwell family was in Danville. As a thriving entrepreneur of the Gilded Age and leader of one of the Commonwealth's leading banks, it was unfit for him to merely exist in his grandparent's ramshackle mansion. A successful man from a trying background, carrying the burden of his community's perception of his family's waning legacy, Jeremiah needed to assert his success with something grand. A statement piece, in brick and mortar, that would honor his beloved grandparents' traditional values and clearly illustrate the enduring success story of his ancestors. In this way, architectural style is an expression of ego in its adherence to a high degree of Greek Revival detail, monumental scale and a clear prioritization of aesthetics over pragmatic function.

History of the Caldwell Family's early activity in Boyle County, Kentucky

The Caldwell clan migrated to Boyle County from Scotland in the 1700s, arriving with over 27 relatives. Robert Caldwell, the son of Capt. John Caldwell arrived with his wife Mary, 11 children and their families. Initial settlement occurred at what would become Caldwell Station, near the banks of the Salt River in Boyle County (illustrated on Filson's map of Kentucky) where they cleared the land, built cabins and produced substantial crops for the coming winter. The following seven generations of Caldwell's would call this area of Kentucky home. They amassed over 4,000 acres of prime Kentucky farm land and prospered through various industries including agriculture, equine, mining, hospitality, and finance.

Members of the Caldwell family had a substantial impact on the development of Danville and early Boyle County. Boyle County was created in 1842, splitting off from Mercer County, which had split off from Lincoln County in 1786. The Caldwells were founders and leaders of the Farmers National Bank (one of Kentucky's oldest banks still in operation), Regents of Centre College, benefactors of the Caldwell Women's College, the Danville Presbyterian Church and Danville's City Hospital (later becoming Ephraim McDowell Medical Center). At his death on Nov 17, 1919 – Jerry Clemens Caldwell was Boyle County's wealthiest citizen – noted as one of the most extensive and successful farmers and business men in Kentucky. His property was valued at over $1,500,000 and his position as president and principal stockholder of Farmers' National Bank was lauded for its 42-year tenure dating to the bank's organization in 1877.

Evaluation of the Significance of the Property within the Historic Context of Greek Revival Style in Boyle County, Kentucky 1875-1899.

The Clemens-Caldwell house is significant for its architectural design, which shows one of Boyle County's highest embodiments of Greek Revival design at a time when the aesthetic was declining in popularity. The house's full construction history gives witness to the reality that houses are constantly evolving in their materials and design. In this case, the house's owners were members of the county's elite group, and had the financial resources to make changes through their 7 generations of property ownership. The house began as a small farmhouse, grew

into a Greek Revival styled large country estate, and continued to undergo changes as maintenance, family need, arising technologies, and fashion dictated.

In years leading up to 1875 and the construction of the house's North Wing, it was still commonplace for Kentucky's gentry to erect grand residences on country estates. This setting, at the margins of the Inner Bluegrass, is where Kentucky's earliest elites established themselves. By the 1830s, rural land was the currency through which one communicated their social position to Kentucky's citizens. By the 1850s, as urban development began to flourish in Kentucky, grander houses began to appear in Kentucky's villages, for convenience and proximity to business.

By the 1870s, the Caldwell family chose to respect the power of tradition conferred by the Greek Revival design for their house. New styles had come into vogue, but the Caldwells did not seek to appear fashionable. Perhaps by the 1860s, Greek Revival had become an iconic expression, one which conferred status and prestige upon the owners. Those who appreciated national architectural tastes, recognized other meanings in the grandeur of a rural seat such as the Clemens-Calwell House. Its grandeur offered other social meanings—connoting wealth, power, and adherence to traditional culture. By the 1870s, the choice of Greek Revival in Boyle County was a conservative choice, perhaps one which prioritized social legitimacy for its owner.

This homage to tradition with such a broad display of Greek Revival design follows the lead of hundreds of other reigning Kentucky families, who chose the Greek Revival for their family estates. In the 1840s, such a choice expressed a desire to appear fashionable; by the period after the Civil War, the Greek Revival had become a reliable way to communicate "We're relevant and successful." The Caldwell family observed further manifestations of reverence for tradition, and continuation of relevant patterns. Their family exhibited a preference for reusing family names from prior generations. The names Jeremiah, Clemens, Fox, Jere, Charles and Fontaine, were used extensively and interchangeably (last names or maiden names became middles names, first names and vice versa). This desire to retain, reuse, and modify family names is paralleled in the way the family exercised their architectural choices. The fact that they continued to modify the family homeplace, a simple log structure and enhance it multiple times over almost a century, ultimately creating a high caliber Greek Revival home, is a testament to their adaptability, tendency to establish patterns and reverence for tradition and their own familial history. Their affection for history extended beyond names and house, where a log building was imported to the property and a room in the house was devoted to the collection of ancient artifacts.

Inside the house, each room originally had a fireplace, and all rooms were separated by doors. This arrangement compartmentalized space, offering family members the opportunity to conduct their affairs in private. Our aesthetic judgments tend to give praise to houses with more interior differentiation whose exterior is wrapped in a unified whole. The Clemens-Caldwell House achieved this combination of architectural values by 1875.

Evaluation of the Integrity Between the Significance of the Clemens-Caldwell House in Light of its Current Physical Condition

The Clemens-Caldwell House is proposed for National Register listing under the first term of Criterion C—it is significant as a type of construction, a Temple-form Greek Revival style house. To qualify under the first term of Criterion C, a property must retain substantial material and design integrity, enough to enable us today to recognize the house as a significant architectural accomplishment and as a product of its time. The attributes weighed most heavily for National Register eligibility are integrity of materials and design.

The house naturally retains integrity of its **location** and rural **setting**. This location is part of the house's architectural significance, insofar as this design is decidedly rural, spreading over the property in a way that would be inappropriate to have arisen in 1875 Danville. The design is appropriate to rural Boyle County, although a few sprawling Greek Revival houses with 7-bay façades can be found in Kentucky county seat towns. The pastures surrounding the house maintain a similar rural character, which reinforces the bucolic nature of its Greek Revival design. In the yard immediately around the house are over 10 species of trees, both native and foreign to Central Kentucky's flora. The original stage coach stop remains as a modern "pull off" at the terminus of the home's front sidewalk. While not the most notable aspect of the property's significance, the property's location and setting both frame and enhance its design.

The Clemens-Caldwell house maintains integrity of its **materials** and **design** in a rural setting. The house exemplifies hallmarks of Temple-Form Greek Revival design and the many materials that go into creating that design. The sweeping formal reception rooms exemplify trademarks of early Kentucky Greek Revival period style, including ornate fireplace mantels in each room, spiral staircase, wide and deep woodwork moldings around all doors and windows and expansive plaster work. Each room's pocket doors remain intact. Seven Victorian-era spaces were removed from the first floor, resulting in three sweeping rooms present today, along with the house's instantly recognizable cantilevered spiral staircase that characterizes the foyer. The house's current symmetrical façade was created to unify the various rambling structures that comprise the structure.

Because the Clemens-Caldwell house retains integrity of location, setting, design and materials, it can be said to have integrity of **feeling**, which can serve as a capstone integrity factor to reinforce that a house meets the first term of Criterion C. The property remains an important part of the local landscape and history of Danville and Boyle County, showcasing many important architectural features that comprise the style, and thus, is deemed to be eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places as a significant example of Greek Revival architecture in Boyle County, Kentucky and will be preserved for many generations to come.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

____ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
____ previously listed in the National Register
____previously determined eligible by the National Register
____designated a National Historic Landmark
____ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #_____
____recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
____ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

____ State Historic Preservation Office
____ Other State agency
____ Federal agency
____ Local government
____ University
____ Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____BOD 1_____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property to be listed on the National Register 2.75 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates
Datum if other than WGS84:
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude:	37.672851°	Longitude: -84.7889163
2. Latitude:		Longitude:
3. Latitude:		Longitude:
4. Latitude:		Longitude:

Or
UTM References Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☐ NAD 1983

1. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
2. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
3. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
4. Zone:	Easting :	Northing:

Verbal Boundary Description

The property proposed for listing is a 4-sided shape that encloses the domestic area of the property at 2011 Harrodsurg Road in Danville, Kentucky. That area is within a larger parcel of 13.18 acres, and listed by the Boyle County Property Valuation Administrator under parcel number 040-000-004 and account number 33155. The listed area is a quadrilateral that begins at the intersection of the northern driveway entrance with US 127. From that point it proceeds in a west-southwesterly direction 361 feet, then 241 feet in a southwesterly direction, then 522 feet in an easterly direction to its intersection with US 127, where it travels 321 feet in a northerly direction, with the road, to return to the point of origin.

Boundary of parcel 040-000-004 shown in yellow by Boyle County Property Valuation Administrator

Boundary proposed for listing within parcel 040-000-004.

Boundary Justification

This nomination emphasizes the value of architectural significance. Within that perspective, the main house is the significant resource, and the domestic area is the appropriate setting within which to view that significant resource. The area proposed for listing is that domestic area.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: _Amos Patton Green (Homeowner)_____
organization: _N/A_____
street & number:_2011 Harrodsburg Road_____
city or town:_Danville_____ state: _Kentucky___ zip code:_40422_____
e-mail_amos.p.green@gmail.com_____
telephone:_606-305-7461_____
date:__October 2025_____

Photographs
Photo Log

Name of Property: **Clemens-Caldwell House**
City or Vicinity: **Danville**
County: **Boyle**
State: **Kentucky**
Photographer: Amos Green
Date Photographed: Dec 2023-Aug 2025

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

Photo# 1of 10 (KY_BoyleCounty_Clemens-CaldwellHouse_0001)
View of east façade, facing southwest.

Photo# 2 of 10 (KY_BoyleCounty_Clemens-CaldwellHouse_0002)
View of east façade, facing west.

Photo# 3 of 10 (KY_BoyleCounty_Clemens-CaldwellHouse_0003)
View of south façade, facing northwest.

Photo# 4 of 10 (KY_BoyleCounty_Clemens-CaldwellHouse_0004)
View of south façade and outbuildings, facing north.

Photo# 5 of 10 (KY_BoyleCounty_Clemens-CaldwellHouse_0005)
View of rear ell, facing east.

Photo# 6 of 10 (KY_BoyleCounty_Clemens-CaldwellHouse_0006)
View of west façade, facing southeast.

Photo# 7 of 10 (KY_BoyleCounty_Clemens-CaldwellHouse_0007)
View of north façade, facing south.

Photo# 8 of 10 (KY_BoyleCounty_Clemens-CaldwellHouse_0008)
View of interior spiral staircase in entry hall, facing northwest.

Photo# 9 of 10 (KY_BoyleCounty_Clemens-CaldwellHouse_0009)
View of interior, into library, facing north.

Photo# 10 of 10 (KY_BoyleCounty_Clemens-CaldwellHouse_0010)
View of interior, into dining room, facing south.