

Robin Amsbary
308 Kenwood Hill Road
Louisville, KY 40214
July 26, 2020
Re: Landmark Designation
consideration

Cynthia Elmore
Landmarks Commission
444 S. 5th Street, Suite 300
Louisville, KY 40202

Dear Ms. Elmore:

This is a request for Landmark Designation consideration for my home, formally known as the Cornelia Bush Gordon House, located at 308 Kenwood Hill Road, Louisville, KY 40214. The original, 1860's structure was twin cabins with a connecting dog trot. These cabins were constructed with cedar posts and vertical split log siding. The cabins served as housing for the men who worked in the various industries on Kenwood Hill, including a lumber yard, charcoal manufacturing, and a rock quarry. A "sister" structure is Esta Cabin of The Little Loomhouse, which was the affiliated business office. The Little Loomhouse is located at 328 Kenwood Hill Road, Louisville, KY 40214.

In 1876, Mr. Benoni Figg sold the land and cabins to Mr. Charles Gheens, who used it as a summer retreat and hunting cabin. Four years later (1890), the property and cabins were sold the Kenwood Park Residential Company; Mr. Sam Stone Bush being on the Board of Directors. Sam Stone Bush was the owner of railroad and power light companies in Georgia and Tennessee, financier of Louisville's first modern day office building, the Equitable Building (the Starks Building) and publisher of the Southern Magazine.

In 1894, Mr. Bush had the cabins modified and augmented to serve as a home for his sister, Cornelia Bush Gordon, and her family. The expansion and modifications were most probably designed by the Louisville architectural firm Maury and Dodd, which designed Mr. Sam Stone Bush's home at 230 Kenwood Hill Road, Louisville, KY 40214. The resulting home is of Federal-style, incorporating board and batten construction as well as the prominent front porch, fan window over the front door, and stone wall. Oral tradition attributes the stone wall construction by freed, formerly enslaved men. The house is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

I would like to recognize the home's architectural and historic role in the development of the South End.

Sincerely,
Robin Amsbary

21-LANDMARK-0002



21-LANDMARK-0002



21-LANDMARK-0002





21-LANDMARK-0002



21-LANDMARK-0002



21-LANDMARK-0002

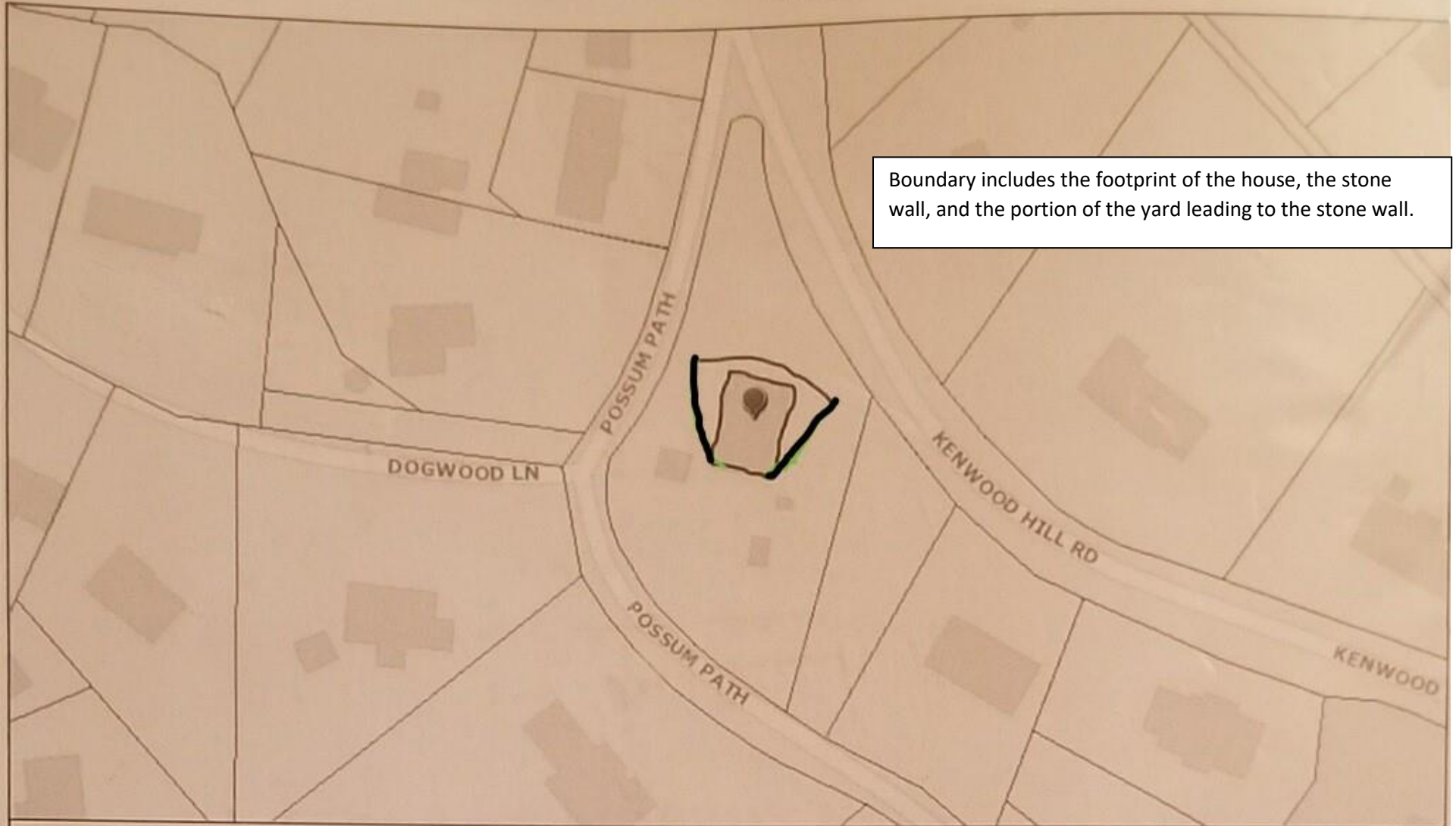


21-LANDMARK-0002

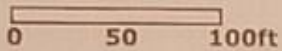




21-LANDMARK-0002

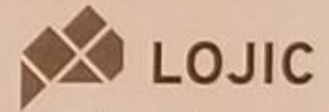


Boundary includes the footprint of the house, the stone wall, and the portion of the yard leading to the stone wall.



308 Kenwood Hill Road

1/20/2021, 8:52:44 AM



Louisville Metro, MSD, LWC & PVA © 2021
This map is not a legal document and should only be used for general reference and identification.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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

For HCRS use only

received APR 9 1982

date entered

1. Name

historic Gordon, Cornelia, House

and/or common Lyddan House

2. Location

street & number 308 Kenwood Hill Road

NA not for publication

city, town Louisville

NA vicinity of

congressional district 3 & 4

state Kentucky

code 021

county Jefferson

code 111

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Dr. & Mrs. Pat Lyddan

street & number 308 Kenwood Hill Rd.

city, town Louisville

NA vicinity of

state Kentucky

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Jefferson County Courthouse

street & number 517 W. Jefferson St.

city, town Louisville

state Kentucky

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Kentucky Historic Resources Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1981 federal state county local

depository for survey records Kentucky Heritage Division

city, town Frankfort

21-LANDMARK-0002
state Kentucky

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Cornelia Gordon House was built in two sections. The front section, ca. 1875, was a one-story double pile frame structure with an open, central dog trot, and a hipped roof, which set up on cedar posts. The front porch, rear section and board-and-batten siding were added in 1894. The porch is a Colonial Revival style porch with a gabled roof supported by slender classical columns. (Photo 1) The front door frame is eared and carries a denticulated molding at the top. The door itself is multi-paned and has a transom with a sunburst motif. (Photo 3) A simple balustrade surrounds the porch. All windows are four-over-four double hung, and have denticulated lintels. The continuous cornice along the roof line is wide, canted, and layered, connecting the front and rear hipped roofs. The siding is board-and-batten and stained with dark green creosote stain. The house no longer sets on cedar posts, but rather has a concrete block foundation and basement, with a garage entrance from Possum Path on the western side of the house. The only alteration to the exterior of the house occurred when a window on the western side at the rear was shortened. The cornice was retained and board-and-batten used to fill in the space below the window.

The interior of the house clearly reflects the two building periods. The two rooms on the western side of the house have been unchanged, but when the front porch was added, the dog trot was enclosed, creating a central hall. The inside wall of the front room on the eastern side of the house was removed, creating a parlor reached directly upon entering the house. A large fireplace with simple mantel and flanking presses is located in this parlor. (Photo 4) Another narrow hallway lies perpendicular to the central hall, with a bath and pantry off of the hallway on the west, and small bedroom at the end of the hall on the east. The bulk of the rear addition consists of a large dining room at the end of the main hall, and a kitchen to the west, reached through the dining room.

All of the window frames, door frames and baseboards are wide and grooved in both old and new sections. The basement is reached from the main hallway, down an open, steep staircase which has a simple, elegant balustrade. (Photo 5)

The Cornelia Gordon House is located in the southernmost section of the city of Louisville on Kenwood Hill, one of two knobs in that area. It is on the north side of the hill in a subdivision developed in 1942. It is a strictly residential area of middle to upper-income families.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates ca. 1875/1894 **Builder/Architect** W. J. Dodd, 1894 remodeling

Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)

The Cornelia Gordon House is architecturally significant due to its board-and-batten siding and its physical evolution from summer cottage to year-round residence. It is one of two remaining cottages left on Kenwood Hill, the other being the Little Loomhouse (National Register, 1975). There are no other such cottages in the city of Louisville, nor are there any other board-and-batten residences in the city.

The history of the Cornelia Gordon House is closely related to the history of Kenwood Hill itself, known in the nineteenth century as "Cox's Knob" and to the Cherokee Indians as "Sunshine Hill."

In 1860, Benoni Figg purchased 125 acres of land, including Cox's Knob from John A. Shrader. Figg had a rock quarrying business on the hill from which he supplied rock for roadbuilding in southern Jefferson County. The Little Loomhouse cabin was built in 1870 as an office and caretaker's quarters for Figg's operation. It is located three lots up Kenwood Hill from the Cornelia Gordon House. In 1876, Charles Gheens, son-in-law to Figg, gained title to the property and used the Loomhouse as a summer house.

It is likely that the front section of 308 Kenwood Hill Rd. was constructed ca. 1875 as a summer house, the dog trot providing ample ventilation. It appears that two structures are represented on the 1879 atlas of Jefferson and Oldham counties, those being the Loomhouse and 308 Kenwood Hill Road.

Charles Gheens sold the property in 1890 to Kenwood Park Residential Company, of which he was an officer. Sam Stone Bush, secretary of the company, in turn purchased several parcels of land from the company, including the lot which contained the Loomhouse cabin. Bush was responsible for the remodeling of the Loomhouse, which included the addition of board-and-batten siding, construction of "Wisteria Cabin" and "Tophouse" (both included in the Loomhouse National Register nomination), construction of his own home at 230 Kenwood Hill Road (National Register, 1979), construction of 316 Kenwood Drive for his mother, and the remodeling and additions of 308 Kenwood Hill Rd. for his sister, Cornelia Gordon, and her husband, Fulton Gordon. All of this construction and remodeling was complete by 1894.

Sam Stone Bush was a prominent real estate investor who was responsible for the development of large tracts of land in southern Jefferson County. Bush was a close personal friend of W. J. Dodd, architect. At the time, Dodd was in partnership with Mason Maury. Maury & Dodd were the architects for Bush's residence. The other two residences were certainly products of Dodd's designs. They are highly influenced by the 1893 Columbian Exposition in Chicago. Dodd worked with McKim, Mead and White on the Exposition and many of his later designs reflect Classical, Beaux-Arts and Colonial Revival styles prevalent in Chicago.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bush, Mrs. Alexander. Interview, February 5, 1981.
 Caron Annual Directories of the City of Louisville, 1870-1910.
 Louisville Landmarks Commission. "Bush, S. S., Residence." National Register nomination, 1979.
 Louisville Landmarks Commission. "The Little Loomhouse." Local Landmark Designation Report, 1979.

10. Geographical Data **ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

Acreege of nominated property approx. 1 acre (.7 acre)
 Quadrangle name Louisville West Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A	<u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>6</u> <u>0</u> <u>7</u>	<u>6</u> <u>1</u> <u>5</u>	<u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>2</u> <u>3</u>	<u>9</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u>	B					
	Zone	Easting		Northing			Zone	Easting		Northing	
C						D					
E						F					
G						H					

Verbal boundary description and justification

The lot is heavily treed and contains no outbuildings. It is approximately .7 acres. The property is an irregularly shaped lot on the southwest corner of Possum Path and Kenwood Hill Rd. and is known as City Block 62E Lot 43 (See Sanborn Map).

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

state	NA	code	county	code
state		code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title M. A. Allgeier, Researcher
 organization Louisville Landmarks Commission date August 31, 1981
 street & number 727 W. Main St. telephone (502) 587-3501
 city or town Louisville state Kentucky

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Mary Curran Appel
 title State Historic Preservation Officer date 3/31/82

For HCERS use only

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

Silvius Byers
 Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the National Register date 5/6/82

Attest: _____ date _____
 Chief of Registration

21-LANDMARK-0002

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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

The Cornelia Gordon House
308 Kenwood Hill Rd.
Louisville, Jefferson Co., Kentucky

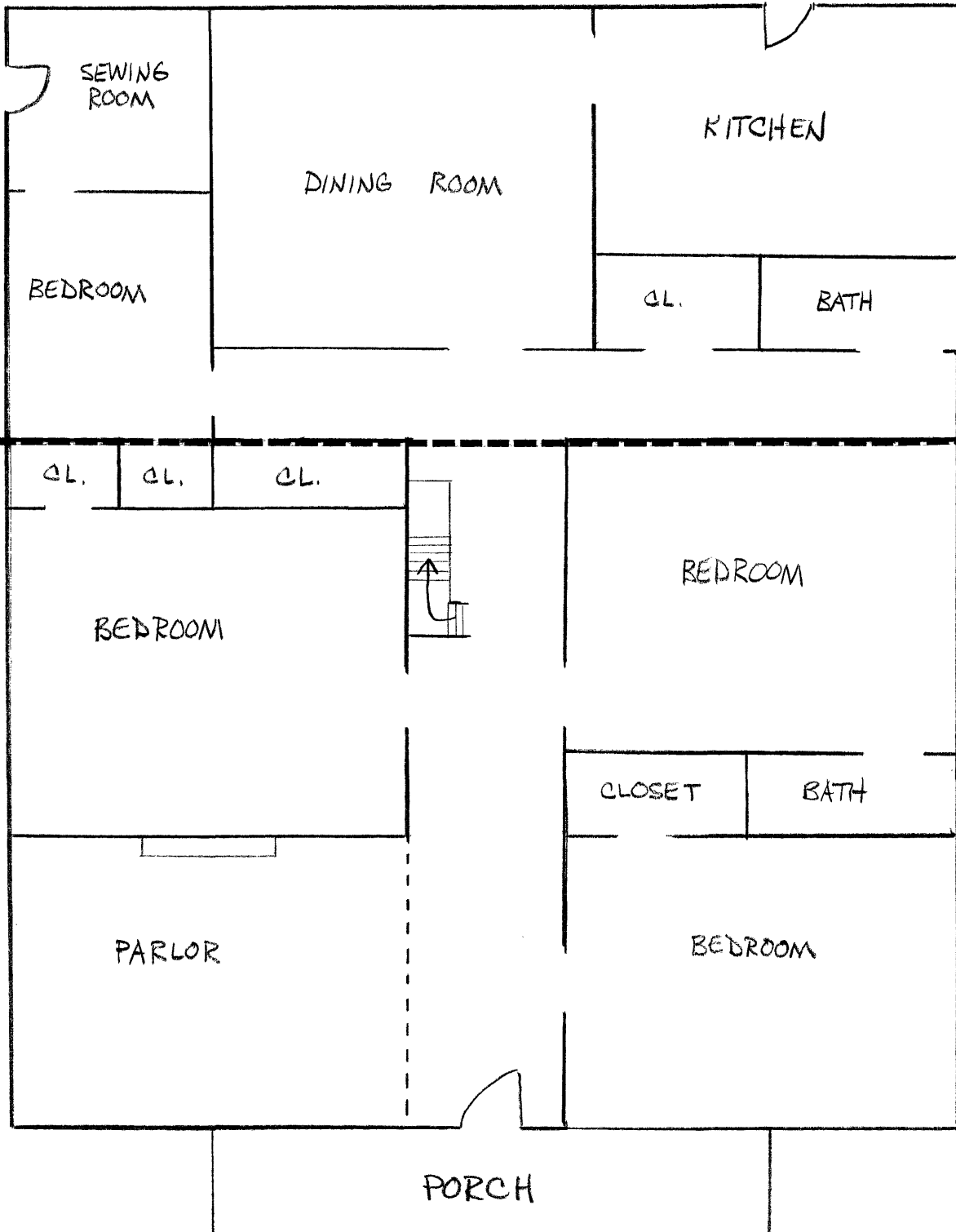
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

The Cornelia Gordon House is important historically and architecturally. The Bush family was a vital force in the development of the south end of Louisville and were the prime movers in the extension of the trolley lines out Third St., allowing accessibility to the center city. Architecturally this house is important due to its very early date for Colonial Revival detailing, but primarily for the use of board-and-batten siding. No other known residential structures in the city, other than the Little Loomhouse, are clad in board-and-batten. Kenwood Hill was a summer retreat in the late nineteenth century, and these two structures are the only remnants within the city of that rural architecture, and are therefore important to the architectural history of Louisville. The house is virtually untouched since its remodeling in 1894.

THE CORNELIA GORDON HOUSE
308 KENWOOD HILL RD.
LOUISVILLE, JEFFERSON, KY
FLOORPLAN
(not to scale)

MAP 1.



GEORGE C. TRAGER
 JEFFERSON COUNTY TAX COMM'R
 W.J. SCHRECK - CHIEF DRAFTSMAN
 DRAWN 11-25-50.5

SCALE 1" = 100'



SEE O.F. 1016
 KENWOOD PARK D.B. 403 P. 641.P.B.1.R.4
 KENWOOD PARK SUB. D.B. 405 P. 638 & 639-
 O.F.829.
 KENWOOD GIRCLE P.B. 8 P.109
 O.F.1095. EASEMENT. 3192 X 3 @ 56.

21-LANDMARK-0602

CORRECTED LINE DRAWING 1965
 JUNE 1965

Gordon, Cornelia, House.
308 Kenwood Hill Rd.
Louisville, Jefferson Co., KY
Sanborn Map - Sanborn Map Co.
Pelham, NY 1974
Scale: 1"-100'
Map 2