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**BLUE GRASS TRUST PLAQUE APPLICATION**

**Purpose of Program**

* Blue Grass Trust plaques are awarded to historic properties (over 50 years of age) that retain their architectural integrity and demonstrate the value of historic preservation.
* These plaques offer recognition to preservation-minded property owners and help publicize the Blue Grass Trust’s mission.
* The plaques do NOT indicate inclusion in a local historic district, which are managed by the city historic preservation office. *Affixing a plaque to your property* *does not subject it to any additional regulations.*

**Instructions**

* Please fully complete all portions of the application by typing and inputting photographs directly into the document. Questions followed by “if known,” are optional, but we recommend that the property owner include as much information as possible to better inform our decision.

**Resources**

1. Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps are essential for determining whether your building has been modified. Many are available through the Library of Congress: <https://www.loc.gov/rr/geogmap/sanborn/>
2. Links to historic maps from 1855, 1857, 1871, and 1891 are provided on our application website page.
3. City directories can aid in determining past occupancy. Do note that house numbers and street names often change over time. <https://exploreuk.uky.edu/?f%5Bsource_s%5D%5B%5D=Lexington+City+Directories>
4. References to additional resources are provided throughout the application and appendices.

Thank you for your interest in the Blue Grass Trust’s Plaque Program! Questions relating to application content or determination procedures may be directed to Dr. Zak Leonard ([zleonard@bluegrasstrust.org](mailto:zleonard@bluegrasstrust.org))

**Part 1: Property Background**

**1. Property address (including county):**

**2. Current owner:**

**Mailing address:**

**Email address:**

**Phone number:**

**3. Is there a historic name associated with the property?**

**4. Is the property on the National Register of Historic Places?[[1]](#footnote-1)\***

**5. Is the property in a Local Historic District? If so, which one?**

**6. Is the property a building (residential or commercial space fit for human habitation) or a structure (barn, garage, etc.)?**

**7. Year constructed (if known, indicate sources):**

**8. Architect/builder (if known, indicate sources):**

**9. List any previous owners and their dates of residence (if known):**

Note: Information on previous ownership can be obtained through a deed search of your county land records (held by the county clerk) and through city directories. For Fayette County, begin by inputting your street address at <https://fayettedeeds.com/landrecords/index.php>. Records prior to 1985 can only be accessed in-person.

**10. What is the significance of the building? (If known, indicate sources below):**

Note: An association with important events or political/social movements, notable occupants, or exceptional architectural design can evidence significance.

**Part 2: Physical Analysis**

**11. What is the style of the building? (If known. See Appendix A for a style guide):**

**12. Describe the exterior building materials**

**Foundation**:

**Walls**:

**Windows (material, shape, and sash configuration):**

**Roof**:

**13. Describe any other character-defining architectural features:**

Note: These may include original doors or porch/portico components (columns, posts, balusters), fan or sidelights, drip/hood moulds over windows, window caps (pedimented, segmental), decorative brickwork (corbelling), chimneys, woodwork (bargeboard, trusses at gables), eave brackets, grilles and metalwork, shingling, prism glass, etc.

**14. Has the building/structure been modified? If so, when, and how?**

**15. If substantial modifications occurred in the past fifty years, were they conducted in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation?**

Note: These standards are outlined in Appendix B. The bold text is the most relevant.

**16. Does the property contain any historic outbuildings or landscape features (walls, features, etc.)?**

**Part 3: Documentation**

**17. Please include current color photographs of all four elevations of the building, noting cardinal direction. Consult the application template for sample photos.**

**18. Please attach any historical photographs or maps of the building (if available).**

Note: Historical images may be available online through the University of Kentucky’s digital archive (Asa C. Chinn Downtown Lexington Kentucky Photographic Collection, 1920-21; Clay Lancaster Kentucky Architectural Photographs and Slide Collection; Carolyn Murray-Wooley Collection; Lafayette Studios Collection) or the Kentucky Digital Library’s Bullock Photograph Collection.

**Part 4: Administrative Information**

The plaque fee (payable to Blue Grass Trust after application approval) covers the cost of a plaque and a one-year individual membership to the Blue Grass Trust. Please select your preferred plaque option below:

1. $150 regular plaque:
2. $250 bronze plaque:

Note: By submitting this application, you are granting the Blue Grass Trust permission to use this information in its promotional materials and publications. Once affixed, plaques should not be moved to other properties.

**Appendix A: Style Guide**

The following is a list of common styles and their typical elements. Please note that your property may feature components of several styles (especially if it is a transitional building) and may have lost – or gained – character-defining features during later remodels.

**Federal: 1780s-1820s**

* A restrained style. Houses are often side-gable, center entry, with side lights and/or elliptical fanlights
* Palladian windows are common features. Other windows usually consist of two sashes with six pane-over-six pane or nine-over-six configurations. Keystone lintels above windows may be present
* Entries are sometimes topped by pediments (full, segmental, or broken)
* Some light Classical detailing, such as dentil moulding, may be present; buildings may be in a transitional state between Federal and Greek Revival styles
* Brick houses may have horizontal stone stringcourses

**Classical Revival: 1770-1820**

* Typically reserved for grand buildings that feature two-story columns that support pediments
* Often country estates — many include a two-story central block with one-story wings
* In terms of ornament, can appear as a hybrid of Federal and Greek Revival styles

**Greek Revival: 1820s-1860s**

* Columns upholding full horizontal entablature (architrave, frieze, and cornice)
* Pedimented porticos or porches are typical
* Pronounced cornices along the roof line, sometimes with returns at bottom corners of the pediment
* Side lights and/or horizontal transoms over primary entry door
* External window moulds can have “Greek ears” (that jut out in corners). Six-over-six pane sash configurations are most common

**Gothic Revival: 1840-1880**

* Steep gables, often with carved wood bargeboard attached to overhang
* Windows may have wood or stone hood moulds above
* Lancet windows and porches with elongated, pointed arched segments are typical
* Trefoil or quatrefoil windows/grilles in gables (locally, this feature also appears in Italianate design)
* Stone, castellated examples may have towers and parapets
* Polychrome brickwork is possible

**Italianate: 1850s-1890s**

* Extremely common in Lexington. Key features are brackets (single or double) supporting roof eaves, segmental-arched windows, double or triple windows, pediments over windows supported by brackets (thin) or consoles (thick), and rounded hood molds over windows
* Garret/attic level double windows are common in this region
* Original sashes usually have two panes each (side by side)
* Towers/belvederes may be present

**Second Empire / Mansard (rare in Bluegrass region): 1860s-1900**

* Tell-tale mansard roofs (where a hipped roof conceals a full upper story)
* Look for dormers, patterned (slate) roofs, roofline metal cresting, and towers

**Queen Anne: 1880-1910**

Spindlework

* Most common subset: machine-turned porch posts, porch friezes, brackets, and balustrades
* Elaborate shingling in gables
* Window sashes in which one large pane is surrounded by smaller ones

Free Classic

* Columns instead of posts are used in porches
* Palladian windows, dentil mouldings on cornice, and decorative garland friezes may be present

Shavian Manorial (named for British architect Richard Norman Shaw)

* Half timbering, patterned brick, dominant chimneys, decorative terracotta work, oriel windows

**Folk Victorian: 1870-1910s**

* Often presents as a vernacular, more subdued version of the spindlework Queen Anne. Buildings are humbler and can include gable-and-wing (aka T-plan) or shotgun layouts

**Romanesque: 1880-1900**

* Large-scale, stone or brick. Often feature curved towers and Roman (half circle) arches on thick, squat columns with carved capitals
* May have ornate wall dormers and Syrian (low-reaching) arches in front of recessed entries

**Tudor Revival: 1890-1940**

* Half-timbering, especially in upper stories, is typical
* Facades may have steeply pitched, curved gables that sweep close to ground (catslide gable)
* Entry vestibule itself may be gabled
* Primary stories may be clad in brick or stucco
* Small paned windows (often casement, with lattice muntins) are common
* Often more geometric, less fanciful than Shavian Manorial Queen Anne subset

**Colonial Revival: 1880-1955**

* Roofs may be side-gable, hipped, or gambrel (Dutch)
* Can feature medley of Federal, Classical Revival, and Greek Revival detailing
* Quoins and dormers (gable or wall) may also be present
* Inspect building massing in ambiguous cases: the composition of a Free Classic Queen Anne may be irregular, while Colonial Revivals are often symmetrical

**Neoclassical: 1895-**

* Trademark exuberant Ionic or Corinthian porch columns (often two-story) supporting pediment
* In detailing, can often be difficult to distinguish from Georgian/Colonial Revival (especially in public buildings)

**Prairie: 1905-1925**

* Horizontal forms accentuated (think Frank Lloyd Wright)
* Low hipped roof with expansive eaves is common
* Often brick or stucco exterior
* Decorative features can be naturalistic/organic or geometric
* Primary doors often have flanking panels with sidelights
* Windows may have longer panes in upper sash or rectangular border panes surrounding central pane
* In this region, often associated with “foursquare” houses

**Spanish/Mediterranean Revival: 1915-1940**

* Clay roof tiles, stucco renders, arcaded sections, and small rounded towers
* Look for intricately carved wooden doors, carved rope mouldings, decorative iron work, and glazed tiling

**Craftsman (bungalow or multi-story): 1905-1935**

* Frequently features street-facing overhanging gable resting upon square or tapered columns
* Rafter tails are exposed. Single brackets may also be present under roofline
* Original windows often include a multi-paned upper sash with a single-pane sash beneath
* Foundation and/or chimney may consist of rubblestone
* Shed or gable dormers are common

**Modernistic: 1920-1945**

* May include subvariants of Deco (streamline, zigzag, Works Progress Administration-moderne)
* Features geometric forms, glazed terracotta, smooth stucco exteriors, flat roofs, curtain windows
* For storefronts, pigmented structural glass (such as Vitrolite) may be present

**Appendix B: Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation**

1. A property shall be used for its historic purpose or be placed in a new use that requires minimal change to the defining characteristics of the building and its site and environment.
2. **The historic character of a property shall be retained and preserved. The removal of historic materials or alteration of features and spaces that characterize a property shall be avoided**.
3. **Each property shall be recognized as a physical record of its time, place, and use. Changes that create a false sense of historical development, such as adding conjectural features or architectural elements from other buildings, shall not be undertaken**.
4. Most properties change over time; those changes that have acquired historic significance in their own right shall be retained and preserved.
5. **Distinctive features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a historic property shall be preserved**.
6. Deteriorated historic features shall be repaired rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive feature, the new feature shall match the old in design, color, texture, and other visual qualities and, where possible, materials. **Replacement of missing features shall be substantiated by documentary, physical, or pictorial evidence.**
7. Chemical or physical treatments, such as sandblasting, that cause damage to historic materials shall not be used. The surface cleaning of structures, if appropriate, shall be undertaken using the gentlest means possible.
8. Significant archeological resources affected by a project shall be protected and preserved. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures shall be undertaken.
9. **New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction shall not destroy historic materials that characterize the property. The new work shall be differentiated from the old and shall be compatible with the massing, size, scale, and architectural features to protect the historic integrity of the property and its environment.**
10. **New additions and adjacent or related new construction shall be undertaken in such a manner that if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.**

1. \* Contact Marty Perry at the Kentucky Heritage Council for National Register maps and listing data: marty.perry@ky.gov [↑](#footnote-ref-1)