



Kentucky Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet Kentucky Heritage Council

Andy Beshear, Governor

Mike Berry, Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Craig Potts

craig.potts@ky.gov

Historic Preservation Review Board Will Meet Dec. 12 To Consider Two Nominations to the National Register

FRANKFORT, Ky. (December 7, 2022) - Nominations for Elmendorf Farm in Fayette County and the Fort Thomas Women's Club will be considered for National Register of Historic Places listing during a meeting of the Kentucky Historic Preservation Review Board at 10 a.m. EST Monday, Dec. 12, via Zoom. The meeting is open to the public and may be accessed at <http://bit.ly/3UdTawO>.

Elmendorf Farm fronts both Paris Pike and Iron Works Pike, has operated as a Thoroughbred horse farm since 1874 and has been known as Elmendorf since 1881. The property includes 702 acres with 41 contributing historic resources including a primary residence, barns and outbuildings, a historic bridge and a horse cemetery. It is being interpreted for its architectural and agricultural significance within its historic concept as a "gentleman farm."

The property rose to fame under the ownership of James B. Haggin (1897-1914), a Kentucky native who made his wealth primarily in copper and gold mining in the

West. “Haggin did not buy raw land untouched by human hands ... he also took existing visions of a high-class Bluegrass horse farm as a way of reshaping Elmendorf. Well within the antebellum period, the notion of the gentleman farmer was developed, and those ideas provided a foundation for... Haggin’s ambitious and extraordinary efforts to shape land, bricks, and stone into a physical representation of his influence and power,” writes the author, Janie-Rice Brother of Palmer Engineering.

Now known as home of the Village Players of Fort Thomas, the Fort Thomas Women’s Club is a three-story building consisting of the original 1908 structure and a 1925 addition designed by Harry Hake in a late 19th/early 20th century commercial style. The original portion includes a stone foundation and yellow iron-spot brick exterior with a painted galvanized iron cornice and stone trim at the windows. The building was constructed by the Citizen’s Telephone Company and American Telephone & Telegraph Company, the original “Hiland Exchange,” and housed 1,700 telephones.

Founded in 1915, the Fort Thomas Woman’s Club purchased the building in 1941 for their new clubhouse. “As their meeting place, the building allowed the women to expand their social, cultural, and charitable activities, grow membership, and expand their influence in their community. The Woman’s Club would evolve to become a dynamic force active in the social and cultural affairs of Fort Thomas and Campbell County,” writes the author, James Stapleton, AIA, Chief Operating Officer of PIVOTstudio.

The review board is charged with evaluating and recommending National Register submissions from Kentucky. The program is administered by the Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office in partnership with the National Park Service (NPS). Following review board deliberation, NPS will have 45 days from receipt to issue a final determination of National Register listing.

Among states, Kentucky has the 5th highest number of listings in the National Register, the federal government's official list of historic and archaeological resources deemed worthy of preservation. For information or to read the nominations, visit www.heritage.ky.gov or contact [Marty Perry](#), KHC National Register coordinator, 502-892-3609.

#

An agency of the Kentucky Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet, the Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office is responsible for the identification, protection and preservation of prehistoric resources and historic buildings, sites and cultural resources throughout the commonwealth, in partnership with other state and federal agencies, local communities and interested citizens.