



**TO:** Mayor Jim Gray  
Urban County Council Members

**FROM:** <sup>BK</sup> Bettie Kerr, Director  
Historic Preservation

**CC:** Sally Hamilton, CAO  
Derek Paulsen, Commissioner

**DATE:** November 29, 2017

**SUBJECT:** Pope Villa National Register Nomination Application

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Request

Urban County Council authorization for Mayor to execute Certified Local Government report relative to the nomination of the historic Pope Villa, 326 Grosvenor Avenue to the National Register of Historic Places. The property is owned by the Blue Grass Trust for Historic Preservation and is within the Aylesford Historic District.

Purpose

By Ordinance, nomination of properties to the National Register of Historic Places in Fayette County are reviewed by the Lexington Historic Preservation Commission, which makes a recommendation to the Mayor per sending the nomination to the Kentucky Historic Preservation Review Board for their action and forwarding to the National Park Service for final determination.

The Lexington Historic Preservation Commission, at its October 23rd meeting, reviewed the Pope Villa National Register nomination, determined by unanimous vote that it meets the criteria for National Register designation and that it be forwarded with a recommendation for approval. The nomination has now been forwarded to the Mayor for action, to be reflected on the attached form. The State Review Board meets on December 19<sup>th</sup> for its review of National Register nominations.

The National Register nomination application is an extensive document that reflects that the Pope Villa was completed in 1812 using plans developed by Benjamin Henry Latrobe, the nationally renowned architect whose other works include the central portion of the United States Capital and Decatur House in Washington D.C. Though altered over the next 150 years, a major fire in 1987 revealed numerous details of its original design and construction.



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The Blue Grass Trust for Historic Preservation has used this information, along with remaining original architectural plans, to work toward the restoration of the house to its original appearance. The house, its design and its historic associations are significant to the history of Lexington, as well as the state and nation.

Budget Implications

There is no budgetary impact to LFUCG.

Are the funds budgeted?

N/A

Director/Commissioner: Paulsen/Kerr

Cc: Derek Paulsen, Commissioner of Planning, Preservation and Development  
Melissa Murphy, Department of Law

