



**TRACT 8**



# **WILDWOOD ESTATE**

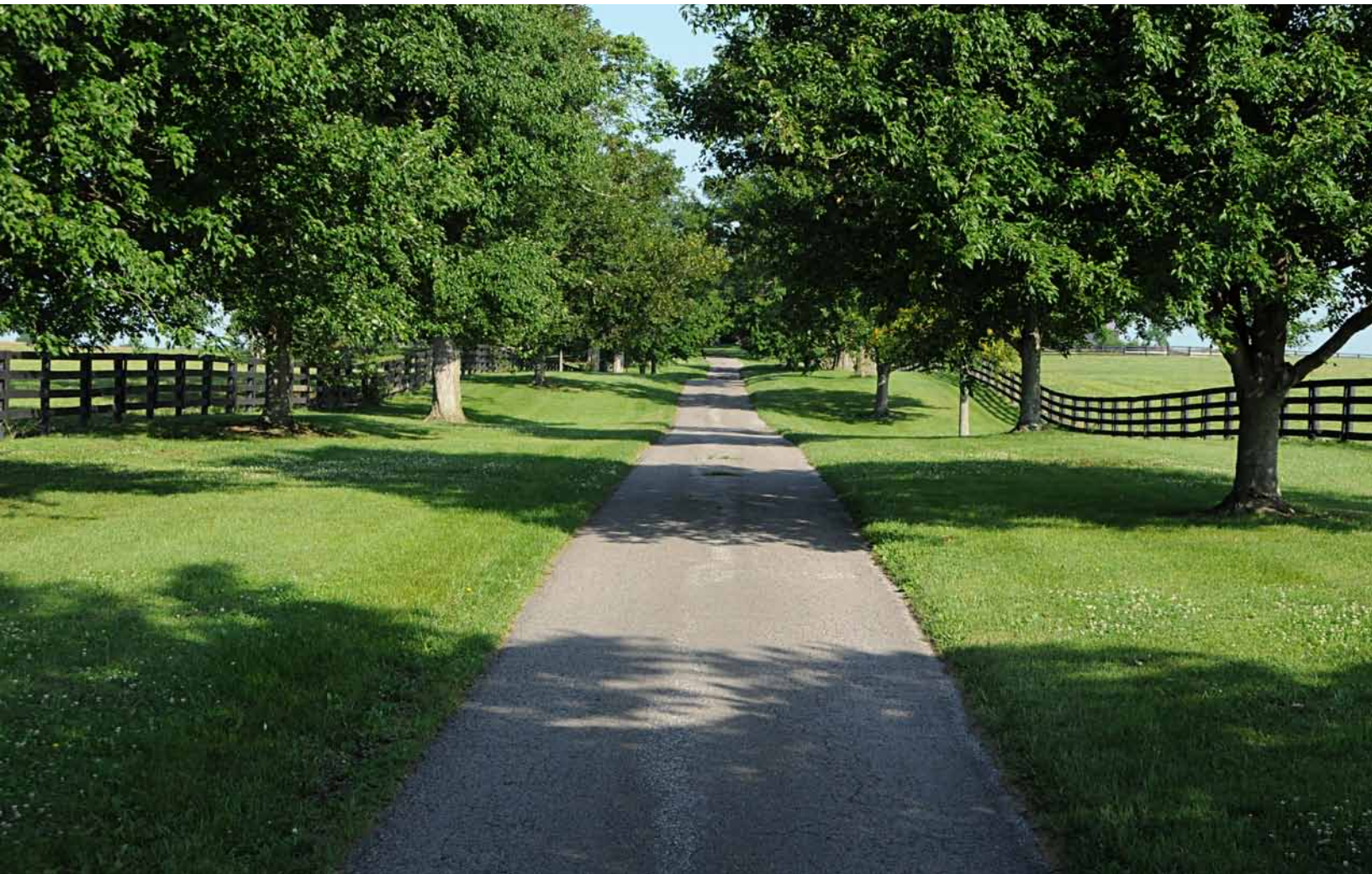
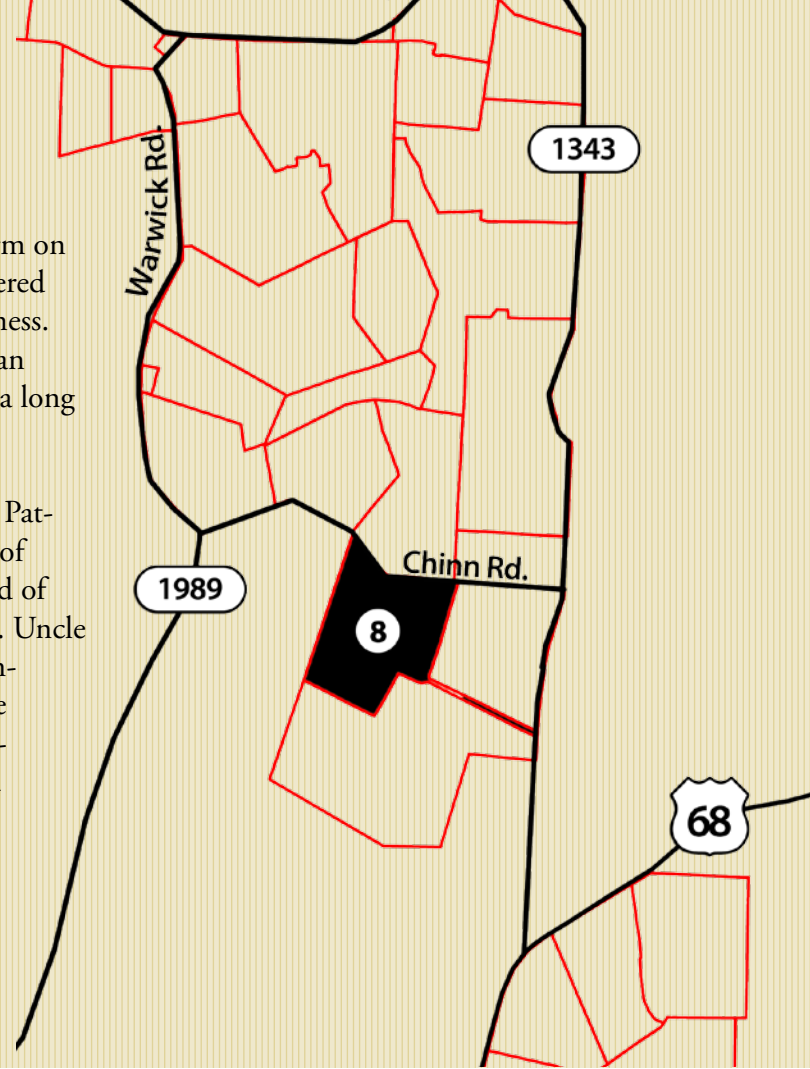
*circa. 1861*



## WILDWOOD ESTATE

In addition to purchasing the Gregory Farm and Walnut Hall in 1985, Ralph and Ruth purchased the 404 acre Patterson Farm on Curry Pike. The Patterson Farm was an excellent farm, and offered the potential to greatly expand the emerging Angus cattle business. The Patterson Farm was also the site of an 1850's High Victorian Italianate style house named Wildwood, a local residence with a long and colorful history.

There had only been two prior owners of Wildwood, and Mrs. Patterson, the second owner, still occupied Wildwood at the time of purchase. W.W. Goddard, better known as Uncle Will Goddard of Wildwood, purchased the farm from Frank P. Kincaid in 1857. Uncle Will started the construction of Wildwood circa 1859 and completed the house circa 1861. The Goddard family occupied the Wildwood residence until they sold the farm to Tom and Elizabeth Patterson in 1915. Ralph and Ruth thus became the third owners of Wildwood. Mrs. Patterson continued to occupy the house until 1987 until the first Anderson Circle Farm General Manager was hired. Wildwood then became both the General Farm Manager's residence and the main office.



Wildwood was the second major historical restoration by Ralph and Ruth, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Homes. Since its construction prior to the Civil War, it had always been occupied, and very little had been done to alter its original character and functionality. The only changes made to the house included a small addition on the rear for bathrooms in the 1950's and the minor alteration of the tower roof due to storm damage in the 1940's.

Wildwood is a primary example of the High Victorian Italianate style, and is one of the best examples of this style in Kentucky, if not the United States. The Italianate style dominated American houses constructed between 1850 and 1880. Italianate houses are least common in the southern states, where the Civil War and Reconstruction led to little new construction until after the style had passed from fashion.

The Italianate style emphasized rambling, informal Italian farmhouses with their square towers as models for Italian style villa architecture. The first Italianate houses in the United States were built in the late 1830's. The style was popularized by the influential pattern books of Andrew Jackson Downing published in the 1840's and 1850's. Wildwood was constructed as a brick two story High Victorian Italianate residence. The floor plan is basically a T shaped plan with a three-story tower positioned at the juncture of the arms of the T plan. The front facade is five bays with a central entrance through the tower. A one story wraparound porch links the exterior doors on the north and east facades. The gingerbread design lattice on the porch is one of the most distinctive features of the residence. The





doors and windows are segmentally arched with stone sills and brick hood moldings. Bull's eye windows are located in each of the gables. The roof has sections of both hip and gable with overhanging eaves and centralized brick chimneys. The main entrance has a pair of decoratively paneled double doors with glazed transoms above. Square pilasters with decorative brackets are located on each side, and support a decorative entrance covering.

Prior to the Civil War, when a house was constructed in central Kentucky, most materials used for construction were from the site. Wildwood was no exception. The wood for framing and trim all came from walnut, oak, or ash trees grown on the farm. A brick kiln was set up in the yard, and bricks were fired on site. Glass for the windows, lamps, and chandeliers, wall paper and paint, and hardware had to be purchased.



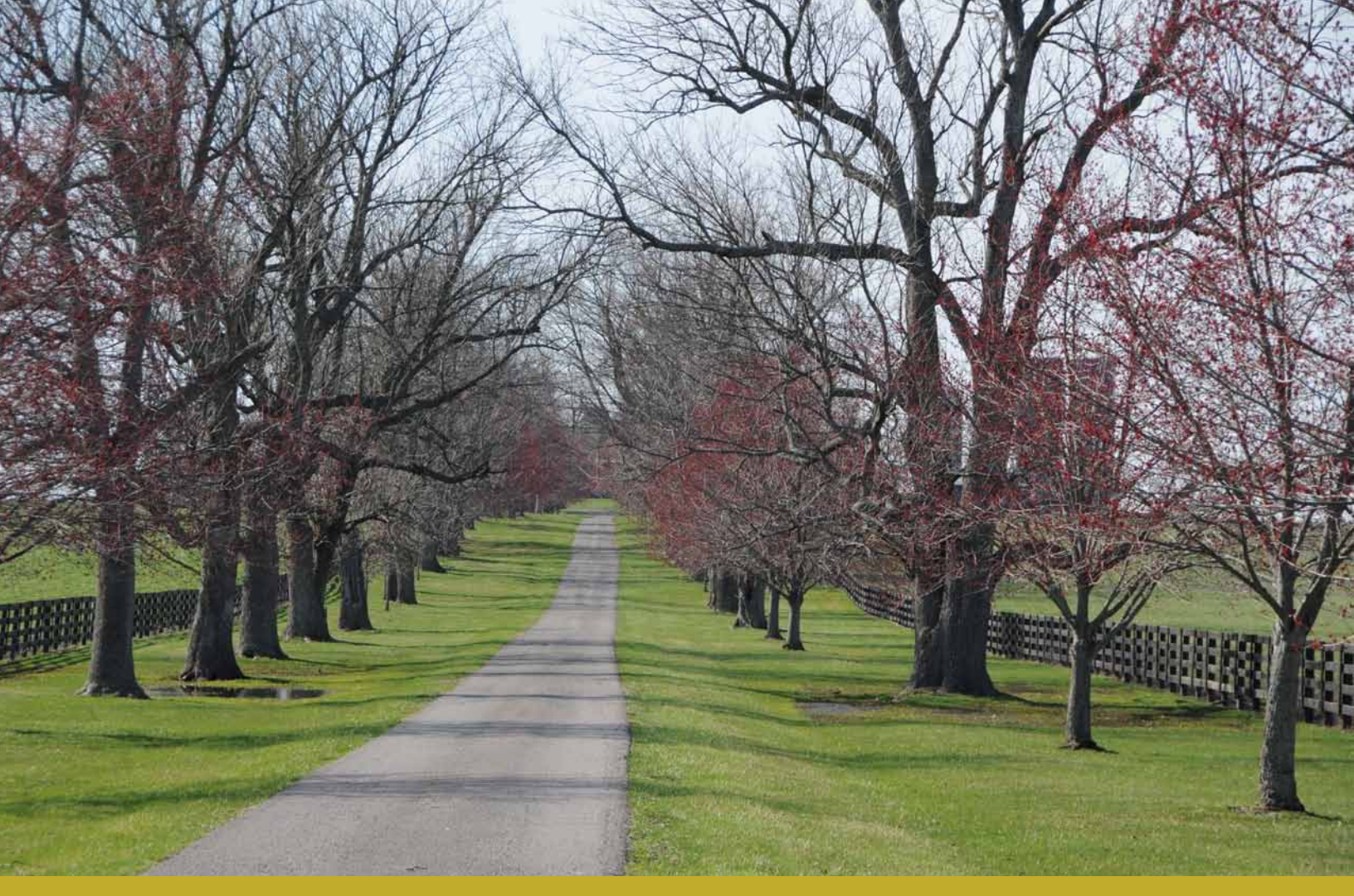
Since Wildwood was to function as the Anderson Circle Farm main office, the design team decided at the outset that this new function should not be incorporated into the existing house. Since ample open space existed to the west, the addition was constructed away from the main house with a narrow neck serving as the passage between the main house and the addition. All details found on the original Wildwood residence were repeated on the addition. The brick used to construct Wildwood was relatively common to this region, and sufficient quantities were found in other locations in the state to construct the addition. When completed, the brick on the new addition and the existing residence could not be distinguished. The restoration of the interior presented no real challenges. The most difficult installation was the total rewiring, and similar to Walnut Hall, the existing brick was chiseled out to allow installation of new wiring and outlet boxes. New heating / cooling systems were installed in both the basement and attic to avoid disruption of the interior spaces. Woodwork within the residence was stripped and refinished, plaster walls and ceilings were repaired, and floors were sanded and refinished.

Wildwood served as the farm office until the Show and Sale Barn on Route 127 was constructed during the 1990's. Today, Wildwood serves as headquarters for most of the farm's cattle confinement feeding, health and medical care, and feed making operations.

The name of Wildwood comes from the many species of native trees collected and planted by the Goddard family. Black locust, walnut, ash, tulip poplar, elm, and oak trees were in abundance. From Wildwood, an avenue of sugar maple trees led to the road. In addition to the large trees native to central Kentucky, Uncle Will Goddard planted hemlocks, lindens, willows, honey lindens, gingkos, catalpas, mountain ash, and many others. Many of these trees, including the tree lined avenue, still exist, but a tornado during the 1990's destroyed several of them.







## MAIN FLOOR

- Office Area* off of back breezeway entry – 18'9" x 16'4.5"
- Kitchen Nook Area* – 16'4" x 11' – pendant type chandelier lighting
- Kitchen Prep Area* – 16'4" x 17' – oak cabinets, ceiling light and pendant lighting
- Formal Dining Area* – 18'3.5" x 17'10.5" – chandelier lighting with fireplace
- Living Area* – 20'10.5" x 21'7" – Fireplace and ceiling lighting
- Entertainment/Pool Room* left of front entrance– 19'9" x 16'10" – fireplace and ceiling lighting
- Bathroom 1*– 8'3" x 6'11" – chandelier lighting, mirror lighting, tile floor, laundry area
- Seasonal Room* - 9' x 16'

## UPSTAIRS

- Master Bedroom* – 16'9" x 17'1" – fireplace, fan with lighting
- Master Foyer Area* – 13'6.5" x 6'8"
- Master Bath* – 9'3.5" x 9', not including 1'10" of cabinet space, tile floor
- Bedroom 1* – 18'3" x 18' – fireplace, ceiling light and closet space
- Bedroom 2* – 21' x 17'10.5" – fan with lighting, closet space, and fireplace
- Bathroom 2* - 7'9.5" x 7'3" – mirror lighting, light over shower, tile floor

## MISC.

- Garage* - 21' x 21'
- Attic* - 45' x 30'
- Floors* - All hardwood unless otherwise noted
- 3 propane furnaces
- Central Air



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