

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Kentucky	
COUNTY: Warren	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER JUL 2 1973	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON: **Ironwood**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Old Richardsville Road

CITY OR TOWN:
Bowling Green

STATE: **Kentucky** CODE: **21** COUNTY: **Warren** CODE: **227**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <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 (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: **Mr. & Mrs. James Herschel Webb**

STREET AND NUMBER:
Ironwood, Old Richardsville Road

CITY OR TOWN: **Bowling Green** STATE: **Kentucky** CODE: **21**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Warren County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Tenth Street

CITY OR TOWN: **Bowling Green** STATE: **Kentucky** CODE: **21**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: **Survey Of Historic Sites In Kentucky**

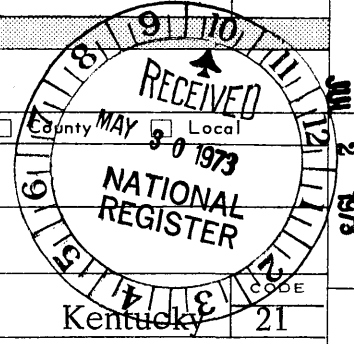
DATE OF SURVEY: **1971** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Kentucky Heritage Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
401 Wapping Street

CITY OR TOWN: **Frankfort** STATE: **Kentucky** CODE: **21**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE:
COUNTY:
ENTRY NUMBER: **MAY 2 1973**
DATE:

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Built between 1852 and 1853 Ironwood was originally the home of Senator Joseph Rogers Underwood. The plans for the house were drawn by Senator and Mrs. Underwood, in consultation with architect Thomas U. Walter. Ironwood, a large, two-story, red brick mansion, was named for the trees on the several hundred acre farm that is bordered on three sides by Barren River.

Most of the materials, including the bricks and lumber used in constructing this substantial home, were secured from the surrounding acreage. The exterior walls are two feet thick while the partition walls are eighteen inches thick. The handsome woodwork throughout the house is of black walnut. Originally a one-story porch, supported by columns that were connected by arched trimmings, extended across the front of the house.

The impressive colossal order portico was added more recently. Six massive Ionic columns on an extended section of the porch support the denticulated cornice and pediment. Behind the columns is a wide, one-story porch running the length of the house. The roof of the porch is supported by smaller Ionic columns. A wide extension of the porch roof on one side of the house is also supported by Ionic columns. The central section of the porch roof is curved partially around the colossal order columns. An attractive balustrade follows the curve of this section of the roof. This central portion of the porch roof also forms a large balcony which can be reached through a double door that is topped by a glass transom and flanked by two tall narrow windows. Beneath this door is the main entrance, which also has a double door; it is flanked by sidelights and topped by a glass transom. Four large windows with shutters complete the front facade.

Ironwood has twelve large rooms. Inside the front entrance are a large hall and a winding staircase. To the left of the hall are a sitting room, music room or den, and bedroom; to the right are a parlor, dining room, kitchen and a large summer porch enclosed by glass. The second floor has six spacious bedrooms that are separated by a central hall. The ceilings of the first floor are thirteen feet in height and on the second floor, fourteen feet. In one corner of the spacious attic is a large cell; reportedly it was constructed as a place of punishment for slaves. Ten of the twelve rooms contain large fireplaces.

(see continuation sheet)



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

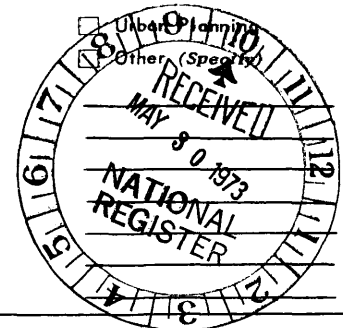
- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1853

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Ironwood, a large, two-story, red brick mansion, was built between 1852 and 1853 by Senator Joseph Rogers Underwood. The front facade of Ironwood is strikingly handsome. Behind a colossal order Ionic portico is a one-story roofed porch that has smaller Doric columns repeating the theme set by the larger ones of the portico. The plans for the twelve room-house were drawn by Senator and Mrs. Underwood in consultation with architect Thomas U. Walter. Between 1851 and 1865 Walter was in charge of the enlargement of the U.S. Capitol, adding the wings and dome to the present structure. He organized the American Institute of Architecture in 1857; became its second president in 1876, and held that office until his death in 1887.

Joseph Rogers Underwood, a second cousin of George Rogers Clark, was born in Goochland County, Virginia, October 24, 1791. He was brought to Barren County, Kentucky in 1803 by his uncle, Edmond Rogers. Underwood graduated from Transylvania College, Lexington, Kentucky in 1811. Serving as a lieutenant in the War of 1812, Underwood was wounded and taken prisoner at the Battle of Dudley's Defeat, May 5, 1813.

Underwood was admitted to the bar in 1813 and moved to Bowling Green in 1823. He served in the Kentucky Legislature, 1816-1819; 1825-1826; 1845-1847 as Speaker of the House; and 1860-1863. Meanwhile, between terms in the Legislature, he served as a Judge of the Kentucky Court of Appeals between 1828 and 1835. He was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, serving from 1835 to 1843 and was elected to the U.S. Senate, serving from 1847 to 1853.

Underwood was very active in the Colonization Society that was organized to send freed slaves to Africa. During the Civil War he was a Unionist, while one of his sons was a Confederate officer. Underwood died in Bowling Green, Kentucky on August 23, 1876, at the age of 84.

(see continuation sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Biographical Directory of the American Congress, 1774-1971, p.1843.
Dictionary of American Biography, v.10, p. 114-115.
Appleton's Cyclopedia of American Biography, v.6., p.210
Levin, ed. Lawyers and Lawmakers of Kentucky. 1897.
Gresham, John M., ed. Biographical Cyclopedia of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, 1896.
Armstrong, J.M. & Co., Biographical Encyclopedia of the Dead & Living Men of the Nineteenth Century of Kentucky, 1878.
Underwood Family Letters, Kentucky Library, Western Kentucky University.
Collins, Lewis & Richard H. History of Kentucky.
Beard, M.H. Old Homes in and Near Bowling Green, Ky. 1964.

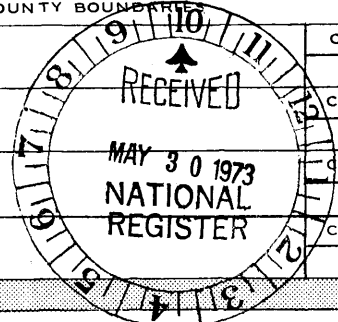
10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	37° 01' 18"	86° 27' 30"				
NE	37° 01' 24"	86° 27' 0"				
SE	37° 01' 15"	86° 26' 58"				
SW	37° 01' 14"	86° 27' 29"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **35 acres**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Miss Elizabeth Coombs, Warren County Representative

ORGANIZATION: **Kentucky Heritage Commission** DATE: **5-15-73**

STREET AND NUMBER:
1140 Chestnut Street

CITY OR TOWN: **Bowling Green** STATE: **Kentucky** CODE: **21**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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 National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Mrs. Simeon Willis
 Title State Historic Preservation Officer
 Date May 24, 1973

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

Robert D. Utley
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 7/2/73

ATTEST:
[Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 6 19 73

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(Continuation Sheet)

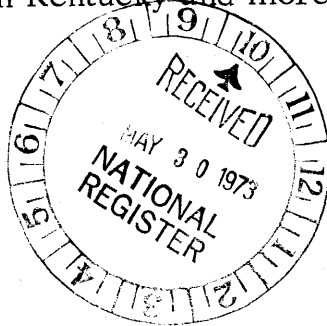
STATE Kentucky	
COUNTY Warren	
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(Number all entries)

7 Description (cont'd)

Ironwood is surrounded by spacious landscaped grounds. Entrance gates and a winding driveway lead to its front door. Still in use is a log cabin that was located on the grounds when Ironwood was built.

After changing owners several times, Ironwood was purchased around 1920 by the Rodes family. According to Mary Hobson Beard in Old Homes In or Near Bowling Green, Kentucky, "during the thirty years of occupancy by Robin Rodes, the old home was remodeled, a handsome Colonial porch added, the interior decorated, the grounds landscaped and the entire farm put in a high state of cultivation. Today, the present owners, Mr. & Mrs. J.H. Webb, have redecorated the interior and furnished it with choice antiques that express the spirit of this stately old home. Now, it is one of the outstanding country places in Southern Kentucky and more beautiful than in former days."



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(Continuation Sheet)

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#8 Statement of Significance (cont'd)

Ironwood and its lovely grounds have been viewed by hundreds of visitors who have taken part in the Garden and Flower Tours conducted in Bowling Green and the State of Kentucky. This antebellum mansion is significant both architecturally and historically as the home of Senator Joseph Rogers Underwood.

