Form 10-300 (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE:	
KENTUCKY	
COUNTY:	
LOGAN	
FOR NPS USE ONL	Y
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
JUN 1	9 1973

	(Type all entries	– complete appl	licable sections)			JUN 1 9 1973			
1. N/									
C	OMMON:								
A	Clark Hou								
	Forst, William House usether								
2. LC	DEATION	9) : VII (1)	2111 1 Jus						
s	TREET AND NUMBER:								
-		ner of 4th	& Winter						
	ITY OR TOWN:	• • •							
S	Russellvi	IIIe	CODE COU	NTY:		CODE			
	Kentucky		21	Ιω	gan	141			
3. CL	ASSIFICATION		1 2 4		5 W.I.				
	CATEGORY		OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE			
	(Check One)					TO THE PUBLIC			
	District 🛣 Building	Public	Public Acquisition:	X.	Occupied	Yes:			
	Site Structure	∏ Private ☐ Both	☐ In Process ☐ Being Cons		Unoccupied	Unrestricted			
	Object	Both	Being Cons	luesed	Preservation work	k □X N∘			
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-	RESENT USE (Check One or M		Park						
1 -			Private Residence		ansportation ner (Specify)	Comments			
"	Educational Mi		Religious		ler (Specify)				
	Entertainment Mu		Scientific						
4. OW	NNER OF PROPERTY								
	WNER'S NAME:		<u> </u>						
	Mrs. W.C.	. Clark & J	. Granville	e Clark					
5									
ci	S.E. 4th	& Winter S	Streets	STATE:	 	CODE			
	Russellvi	1110		. Ye	ntučky	21			
5. L.C	CATION OF LEGAL DESC				aruncky	1 21			
C	OURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF D	EEDS, ETC:							
-	Logan Col	inty Courth	ouse						
3	West 4th	Street							
CI	ITY OR TOWN:	street		STATE		CODE			
	Russellv	ille		Ke	ntucky	1911/21			
	PRESENTATION IN EXIST	ING SURVEYS				RECEIVED			
T1	ITLE OF SURVEY:					ILLULIVE U			
-	Survey of ATE OF SURVEY: 1971	f Historic	Sites in Ke	entucky State	County	MAY 1 4 1973			
L	EPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RE	CORDS:		C 3idie		NATIONAL 1			
	Kentucky	Heritage C	Commission			REGISTER			
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7.	DESCRIPTION									
	CONDITION	(Check One)								
		XX Excellent	Good	☐ Fair	☐ Dete	priorated	Ruins	Unexposed		
			(Check Ot	1e)			(Che	ck One)		
		XX Alte	red	Unaltered			☐ Moved	○ Original Site		
- 1	DESCRIBE THE PE	RESENT AND OR	IGINAL (if kno	wn) PHYSICA	L APPEA	RANCE				

The Clark House, a handsome ten-room, two-story brick residence with twining ivy and precisely trimmed shrubbery, stands at the southeast corner of Fourth and Winter Streets in Russellville, Kentucky. This Federal style house is said to have been built circa 1820 by a Mr. Forst from England. There are no windows on the sides of the house, because they were still afraid of Indian attacks when the house was built. Originally the house was composed of three 20'x20' rooms & a 20' hall on the first floor with a 20'x20' room & a 60'x20' ballroom on the second floor.

Through the years the house has changed under the hands of various owners. The front porch with its white columns is gone. The servants' quarters and kitchen have been torn down. The original windows and inside staircase were replaced in the 1890's. The red brick has been painted white. The huge ballroom, where the Confederate Convention was held, has been converted into several rooms which now serve as an apartment for one of the present owners. The plastered ceiling of the two-story main hallway was replaced by a patterned metal ceiling after a tornado. Mr.

Wister C. Clark explained that he "didn't want any more plaster to fall on him."

The large front porch of the Clark House has a double brick stairway. [Both the stairs and porch are bordered by a wrought iron railing and carefully groomed shrubbery. To the side of the stairs on the ground level is curved brick platform containing a birdbath.]

The front elevation has four shuttered four-paned windows on the first floor and five on the second floor. The main entrance is flanked by two applied Ionic columns, glass sidelights, and period lighting fixtures. Above the door is an attractive leaded glass transom.

The Clark House has served as a residence and as the meeting place for the Confederate Sovereignty Commission. Between 1922 and 1942 Mr. Wister C. Clark used it as a funeral home. In 1960 Mrs. Wister C. Clark converted the second floor into an apartment for her own use and the first floor into law offices for her son, Granville Clark and him partner A.G. Rhea.

SIGNIFICANCE			
PERIOD (Check One of More as	Appropriate)		
Pre-Columbian	☐ 16th Century	18th Century	20th Century
☐ 15th Century	17th Century	X 19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicab	le and Known) C. 18	20	
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Che	ock One or More as Appropri	ate)	
Abor iginal	Education	▼ Political	Urban Planning
Prehistoric	Engineering	Religion/Phi-	Other Repectify) //
☐ Historic	Industry	losophy	Pro *
☐ Agriculture	☐ Invention	Science	LEIVED
	Landscape	Sculpture	
☐ Art	Architecture	Social/Human-	Na 4 1979
☐ Commerce	Literature	itarian	RES ONA
☐ Communications	Military	Theater	GO LGISTER
Conservation	Music	Transportation	
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE			1/8/1/9

The Clark House was built circa 1820 by a Mr. Forst from England. Possibly Mr. Forst was a cabinetmaker. It is known that members of his family were early cabinetmakers. Many fine old pieces of their furniture are still being used by residents of Russellville.

The Confederate Sovereignty Convention met in the second floor ballroom of the Clark House on November 18, 19, & 20 in 1861. One hundred and sixteen delegates from sixty-five counties met here and passed an Act of Secession, declaring Kentucky a Confederate state. They selected Bowling Green as their capitol and elected George W. Johnson of Scott County as provisional governor.

In <u>Historic Kentucky</u>, J. Winsten Coleman, Jr. reported that, "three commissioners—Henry C. Burnett, William Preston and William E. Simms—were sent to Richmond to secure the admission of Kentucky in the Confederacy. Kentucky was admitted as the 13th state to the Confederate States of America on December 10, 1861. Provisions were made for a provisional government consisting of the governor and a council of 12, vested with legislative powers. Plans were made for 12 Confederate congressmen and two senators."

Coleman also mentioned that George W. Johnson, the provisional governor, was a graduate of Transylvania University and was a farmer from Georgetown, Kentucky. He was a Colonel in the Kentucky State Militia and had served one term in the Kentucky Legislature. "After his appointment as governor, Johnson went into active service in the Confederate army, first as aide to General John C. Breckinridge and later as a private in the 4th Kentucky Infantry. While fighting in the ranks, Johnson was killed in the Battle of Shiloh; he was succeeded in office by Richard Hawes of Bourbon County. Johnson and Hawes were the only governors of the Confederate State of Kentucky, which operated in name only, as Kentucky was for the most part under federal control during the war. Officially, the state government at Frankfort never seceded and Kentucky remained a part of the Union."

9.	MAJOR	BIBLIOGRAP	HICAL RE	FERENCE	S								
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