

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED **OCT 28 1980**
DATE ENTERED NOV 28 1980

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

William Ford House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

S of Brownsville on U.S. 31W

STREET & NUMBER

Highway 31-W, 14 miles north of Bowling Green, Ky.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN Brownsville vic

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Smiths Grove

X VICINITY OF

2

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Kentucky

021

Edmonson

061

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

X OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

X BUILDING(S)

X PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

X PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Edward George and Mildred Woodcock

STREET & NUMBER

637 Lemont Drive

CITY, TOWN

Nashville

VICINITY OF

STATE

Tennessee

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Edmonson County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Brownsville

STATE

Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The William Ford House is a highly visible structure located just off Highway 31-W in Edmonson County in western Kentucky. Facing south, the house sits approximately 100 feet from the road, protected by a heavily shaded yard, and is adjacent to the Warren County line.

The Ford house is a two-story, single pile, I-house, that is Greek Revival in scale. Flemish bond brickwork appears on the facade, with Common bond elsewhere. The round arched entrance, which probably originally contained a fanlight, now exhibits a wooden Victorian surround. Wooden lintels top the window openings, and semi-projecting chimneys flank the main block. A one-story ell (which appears later than the main block), with a 20th century addition projects from the rear¹ (see photos 1-5).

The Ford house contains Victorian woodwork on the interior, which appears to date from the 1880s or 1890s. The left front parlor mantelpiece exhibits a slight Federal influence, with the use of colonnettes, sunbursts, and reeded edges along the mantel shelf. This design is echoed in the reeded window trim and bull's eye corner blocks displayed throughout the structure. Two floor to ceiling cupboards flank the parlor mantelpiece (see photos 6-7).

The central passage contains an open well, two-flight staircase. A large square Victorian newel post, with small sunbursts is the most decorative element and the stair is further embellished with ornamental brackets, and small bulls' eyes.

Some of the other details displayed throughout the house include six inch baseboards, chairrailing, bull's eye corner blocks and reeded window trim, and horizontally paneled doors.

The nominated area includes the house and yard area, composing the lot under present ownership.

¹It is possible that the ell was originally two stories in height, then later truncated.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES _____ BUILDER/ARCHITECT _____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Located ten miles south of Brownsville, in western Kentucky, the William Ford House is one of few early 19th century brick structures in Edmonson County. The original owner, Dr. William Ford (1793-1860) served for many years as the only physician in the Green River area of Kentucky in the early part of the 19th century.

Born in 1793, in North Carolina, William Ford came to Kentucky at an early age and invested in a large tract of land in present day Edmonson County. He built the existing brick structure around 1830, making it one of the earliest homes in the area.¹ Dr. Ford was considered an excellent physician and maintained a practice encompassing a large territory between the Green and Barren rivers. His small brick office, which originally stood next to his house on Highway 31-W is no longer extant. Dr. Ford also apparently served as part-time minister between 1833 and 1835, as "Reverent" Ford is mentioned in an early Edmonson County marriage book.

The absence of any significant number of historic brick structures in Edmonson County heightens the importance of the Ford house. Although slightly altered since construction, the changes wrought within the Ford house are as pleasing as they are well executed. Fine Victorian mantels and woodwork are displayed throughout the structure. The integrity of the exterior of the house has not been compromised in any way. The well-laid brick and entrance surround still exhibit their early qualities.

¹ Although within the limits of Edmonson County, the Ford house is similar in scale and form to several structures in Warren County along Highway 31-W. Most of these houses have already been listed on the National Register (see Warren County Multiple Resources Area - listed December 18, 1979).

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Sumpter, Irene Moss. An Album of Early Warren County Landmarks. Clarksville: Josten Publications, 1976.

Information received from the owner.

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

UTM NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Smiths Grove

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 116 571021810 4110514610
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

A line parallel to, and sixty feet from, the foundations of the structure.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Jayne Henderson, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Kentucky Heritage Commission

DATE

August 13, 1980

STREET & NUMBER

104 Bridge Street

TELEPHONE

(502) 564-3741

CITY OR TOWN

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Donna C. Hopkins

TITLE

Acting State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

10/13/80

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Carol D. Shull

DATE

11-28-80

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

Glenda Fort McCallum

DATE

11-28-80

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION