

| | |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| STATE: Kentucky | |
| COUNTY: Nelson | |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |
| | 3/11/71 |

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON: **My Old Kentucky Home**

AND/OR HISTORIC: **Federal Hill**

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: **U. S. Highway 150 - Stephen Foster Street**

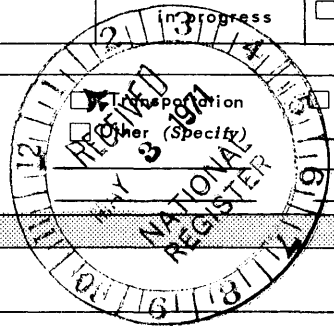
CITY OR TOWN: **Bardstown**

| | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| STATE Kentucky | CODE 21 | COUNTY: Nelson | CODE 179 |
|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both | Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered | <input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress |
| PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate) | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum | <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No |

Comments: _____



4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: **Kentucky Department of State Parks**

STREET AND NUMBER: **State Office Building Annex**

CITY OR TOWN: **Frankfort**

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| STATE: Kentucky | CODE 21 |
|---------------------------|-------------------|

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: **Nelson County Clerk's Office**

STREET AND NUMBER: _____

CITY OR TOWN: **Bardstown**

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| STATE: Kentucky | CODE 21 |
|---------------------------|-------------------|

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: **Statewide Survey of Historic Places**

DATE OF SURVEY: **1969** 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

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

12/5/72

PH0014319

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 type="checkbox"/> Altered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered | <input type="checkbox"/> Moved | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

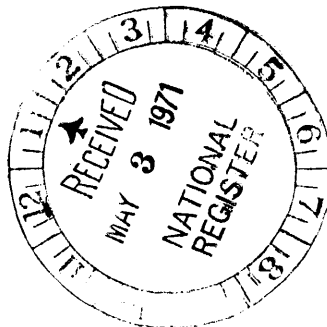
"Federal Hill," the older wing of which dates from 1795, is of native brick and stone, the brick being laid in Flemish bond. The main house, consisting of two stories and a low attic, would present a typical Georgian plan were it not for the fact that what would ordinarily be a rear room on the west side of the hall is replaced by a service court which intervenes between the dining room and the older detached kitchen wing.

The house is nobly proportioned both inside and out. The windows on the front are double-hung with 12 pane sash, while those at the ends and rear are of a 9 pane sash. Long side windows flank the classically framed portal. This arrangement of narrow windows on either side of the door antedates the use of side lights.

A broad hall spanned by a beautiful arch, carried on delicately fluted colonettes, leads through "Federal Hill." At the right, beyond the arch, the stairway ascends to a landing above the rear door from which it returns on the left of the hall to the second floor. At the right of the entrance is the dining-room; at the left, the parlor, behind which is a lower bedroom. Above, a similar layout accommodates three bedrooms with Judge Rowan's library above the front hall. The parlor, dining room, and bed chambers are each provided with mantels, anyone of which is a splendid example of the carver's art.

At the rear the semi-formed flower garden has been restored, and at the east, as one approaches the house, the Rowan burial ground is to be seen. The law office of Judge Rowan, a log structure built over the stone springhouse, has also been carefully restored.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



6. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

| | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" 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)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

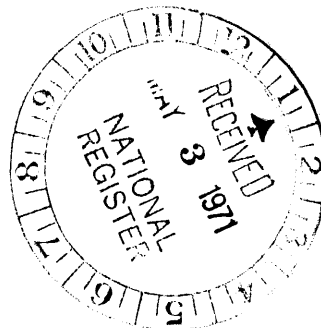
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Perhaps no single example of Kentucky residential architecture is better known than "Federal Hill," located in Bardstown. Popularly known as "My Old Kentucky Home," because it was here that Stephen Foster is said to have been inspired to write some of his immortal ballads. During a visit with the Rowans, he wrote his famous "My Old Kentucky Home."

"Federal Hill" was built ca 1795 by Judge John Rowan, who was born in Pennsylvania, and came west at an early age, and who eventually was to become a United States Senator.

The House was sold by the last Rowan descendant to the Commonwealth of Kentucky, and was restored in 1922. It has been refurnished in a manner in keeping with the era of the Rowan occupancy. As an excellent example of a Kentucky country house of the period 1795-1842, and because of its historic and literary interest, it is maintained as a State Monument and Shrine.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

J. Winston Coleman, Historic Kentucky, Henry Clay Press, Lexington, 1969.

Rexford Newcomb, Architecture in Old Kentucky; University of Illinois.

Sarah B. Smith, Historic Bardstown

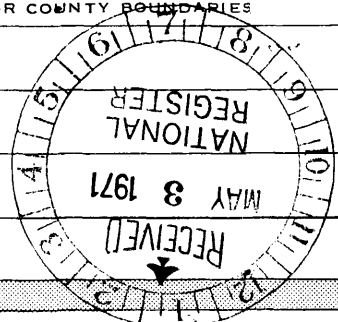
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY | | | OR | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES | | |
|--|--|--|----|---|----------------------------------|--|
| CORNER | LATITUDE | LONGITUDE | | LATITUDE | LONGITUDE | |
| NW | Degrees Minutes Seconds 37° 48' 30" | Degrees Minutes Seconds 85° 27' 40" | | Degrees Minutes Seconds ° ' " | Degrees Minutes Seconds ° ' " | |
| NE | 37° 48' 30" | 85° 27' 09" | | ° ' " | ° ' " | |
| SE | 37° 47' 34" | 85° 27' 09" | | ° ' " | ° ' " | |
| SW | 37° 47' 34" | 85° 27' 40" | | ° ' " | ° ' " | |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **236 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:
Mrs. Lou Delle McIntosh, Curator

ORGANIZATION: **Kentucky Department of State Parks** DATE: **4-15-71**

STREET AND NUMBER:
State Office Building Annex

CITY OR TOWN: **Frankfort** 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: *Joseph M. Gray*

Title: State Liaison Officer

Date: April 28, 1971

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

Ernest A. Connally
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 3/11/71

ATTEST:
Lois Mumby
Keeper of The National Register

Date: _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS