

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED	OCT 05 1979
DATE ENTERED	DEC 27 1979

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

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Brown, Joshua House

AND/OR COMMON

Tuckyhoe Ridge

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

2705 Tates Creek Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Lexington

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6

STATE

Kentucky

CODE
021

COUNTY
Fayette

CODE
067

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. J. Ed Parker III

STREET & NUMBER

2705 Tates Creek Road

CITY, TOWN

Lexington

VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Fayette County Court House

STREET & NUMBER

West Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Lexington

STATE

Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Survey of Historic Places in Kentucky

DATE

March 1979

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Kentucky Heritage Commission

CITY, TOWN

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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 Joshua Brown House was originally a rectangular gable roofed, 2 1/2 story house, with a central hall (photo 1). It is a five-bay brick structure constructed with a Flemish bond facade and a belt course of three rows of stretchers (photo 2). A front three-bay early side addition is also constructed in the Flemish bond pattern. Both sections have a common bond pattern on sides and rear.

The oldest section has two end-wall chimneys flush with the gable; the early side addition has an end-wall chimney; and, a fourth chimney was constructed at the turn of the century (ca. 1900) at the rear of the frame ell addition (photo 3). At the same time as this frame addition was constructed, a ground level porch, now screened in and a frame section, now a utility room, were added to the rear of the early side addition (photo 4).

With three exceptions, original windows and the front door have been lengthened in the Victorian manner. Windows are two over two; the front door is a five-panel one with simple entablature above; and, the third bay of the side addition is a door with two vertical panes of glass over a horizontal panel in low relief. This additional front entrance may have once been a window. The exceptions to the Victorian modifications are the extreme left window of the facade and the side windows on the left (south) side. The front one is six over six and the side ones are nine over nine and all are pegged. The side windows have sills with nosing (photo 5).

Doors on the interior are six panel and some contain original carpenters' locks with medallions. Those off the main hall have architrave trim surrounding. Floors are, for the most part, original ash. Mantelpieces are simple, Federal ones. To the left of the fireplace in the upper right room is a press with its original hinges.

In the hall, the closed string stair has rectangular spindles, square posts, a square cherry newel and cherry rails. Steps in the second flight have a smaller rise than those in the first. Board and batten doors lead to the attic where the stair is finished with horsehair plaster and to the basement through the outside right (north) wall and stone foundation. In the basement, there is a cooking fireplace opening on one end and what appears to be a closed-in fireplace on the other.

There are early boot scrapers on either side of the front walk and near the driveway entrance is a mounting block of large bush-hammered millstones.

The boundaries, as described, are the property lines surrounding the total acreage under the present ownership of Mr. and Mrs. J. Ed Parker, III on which the Joshua Brown House stands.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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

SPECIFIC DATES **circa.1798**

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Once the property of John Wesley Hunt, the first millionaire west of the Allegheny Mountains, the house was the boyhood home of Hunt's grandson John Hunt Morgan, a prominent Confederate officer. It is a good example of late eighteenth century and early Fayette County architecture but it achieves significance more by its association with historical figures than by outstanding architectural features. It is located on a major radial road which has remained relatively unspoiled. In a magnificent wooded setting, the house survives amidst development.

According to Clay Lancaster's Antebellum Houses of the Bluegrass, the house was built around 1798 by Joshua Brown (p. 33). Little biographical information about Brown has been discovered except that he was considered one of the "Farmers and Gentlemen" who formed "the pillars of society in their day" (Leavy p. 311). Deed research does confirm Brown as the first owner and the late eighteenth century date seems appropriate since the house contains some transitional [Georgian and Federal] features. Such typical features are not overshadowed by later modifications rather, the basic fabric of the original building has been retained.

The earliest portion of the house has two rooms upstairs and down, a hall, attic and basement. The floors are their original ash and in the downstairs rooms, doors have original carpenter locks and medallions. Mantels are simple Federal ones, similar to many found in the Blue Grass area. An original press remains in the right downstairs room. The attic is reached through a board and batten door and the wall of the attic stair is plastered in horse hair plaster, indicative of early plaster techniques in this area. Windows in one room of this addition contain original pegging and sills have nosing.

Joshua Brown's heirs sold the property to John Wesley Hunt, a prominent merchant, hemp manufacturer, shipper and financier. Hunt had journeyed from New Jersey to Lexington at age 22 in 1795. He was the son of Trenton's "most prominent merchant" and as such was experienced enough to begin a merchandising career in central Kentucky (Ramage, Hunt, p. 1). His numerous business adventures "helped mold the economy of Lexington, the Ohio and Mississippi valleys" and Hunt "became a prototype of the nineteenth-century American entrepreneur" (Ramage, Hunt, p. 1). He was the first millionaire west of the Alleghenies, was a founder of the Eastern Kentucky Asylum and was a trustee for Lexington's Transylvania College for a number of years. Hunt maintained a magnificent avant-garde home in town which is now known as the Hunt-Morgan House/Museum. This remained his primary "city" home and the Brown farm became the family "country" home.

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In 1823, Hunt's daughter Henrietta married Calvin C. Morgan and they moved to Huntsville, Alabama. They moved back to Lexington and to the Brown house in 1829 where Calvin took over the management of the farm for Hunt. Calvin Morgan "lived the life of a country gentleman" on this farm until he died in 1853. (Ramage, "Morgan," p. 7).

The house was the boyhood home of Calvin's son, John Hunt Morgan who later was known as the "Thunderbolt of the Confederacy" (Holland, p. 45 and picture opposite p. 49). Educated at Transylvania College and the Kentucky Military Institute, he fought against the Mexicans in 1846, returned to Lexington in 1847, and married Rebecca Gratz Bruce in 1848. Morgan bought a hemp factory and woolen mill, became involved in fraternal [Masonic] and civic affairs and was somewhat following the merchandising path of his grandfather, John Wesley Hunt, when the Civil War changed his career. Morgan organized a military company known as the Lexington Rifles, then in 1861 he captained Company A of the Kentucky Cavalry. By 1862, he was a Brigadier General in the Confederacy and his company was called "Morgan's Raiders," well known for their terrorizing raids through Union territory. He was killed in 1864 (Metzler, pp. 1-4 and 105).

John Hunt Morgan's brother-in-law Sanders Bruce purchased the Joshua Brown house from the John Wesley Hunt heirs in 1854. Bruce only retained the house for one year before selling it to John Headley. When the Civil War began, Bruce took the opposite stand of his brother-in-law and became Inspector General of the Union Home Guard of Kentucky. He was later elected Colonel of the Twentieth Kentucky Regiment of Infantry Volunteers. After the war, Bruce moved to New York City where he became involved with the horse industry as first publisher and editor of Turf, Field and Farm, author and compiler of American Stud Book, and publisher of Horse Breeder's Guide and Hand Book and Thoroughbred Horse (Herald, p. 7).

The property was in the Headley family until 1879 when Sallie A. Headley sold it to B.F. Pettit. The Headley and Pettit families were early settlers in Fayette County. Members of both families are very active in many fields and are still distinguished citizens of the county.

At the turn of the century, the Pettits added the rear ell addition. Lillian Pettit Lewis had the property placed in trust with Transylvania University in 1956 and it remained in trust until the present owners bought it in 1967.

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- "Colonel Sanders Dewees Bruce." Lexington Herald. April 10, 1900.
- Sydney Combs. Bluegrass Homes. Lexington, Kentucky, 1948.
- Fayette County Court House Deed Books.
- Cecil F. Holland. Morgan and His Raiders. New York, 1942.
- Clay Lancaster. Antebellum Houses of the Bluegrass. Lexington, Kentucky, 1961.
- William Leavy. "Memoir of Lexington and Its Vicinity." Register of the Kentucky Historical Society. Vol. 41. 1943.
- William E. Metzler. Morgan and His Dixie Cavaliers. 1976.
- James A. Ramage. John Wesley Hunt. Lexington, Kentucky, 1974.
- James A. Ramage. "Thomas Hunt Morgan: Family Influences in the Making of a Great Scientist." The Filson Club Historical Quarterly. Vol. 53. 1979.



Joshua Brown House
Tuckyhoe Ridge

Lexington
2705 Tates Creek Road
Fayette
Kentucky

JUN 6 1979

Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government
Topographic
Map, 2

Scale 1:200

Joshua Brown House
Tuckyhoe Ridge

Lexington
2705 Tates Creek Road
Fayette
Kentucky

JUN 6 1979

Smith, Gallup and Company
of New York

Date 3 1861, reprinted 1968
Map, 3

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