

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For NPS use only  
received 11/1 5 1984  
date entered AUG 14 1984

1. Name

historic

~~HISTORIC RESOURCES OF BRANDENBURG, KENTUCKY~~

and/or common

2. Location

street & number See Individual Inventory Forms & Continuation Sheets — not for publication

city, town Brandenburg — vicinity of

state Kentucky code county Meade code

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>na</u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<u>na</u> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name See Individual Inventory Forms & Continuation Sheets

street & number

city, town — vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Meade County Courthouse

street & number Kentucky 1692

city, town Brandenburg state Kentucky

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Survey of Historic Sites In Kentucky has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date October 1983  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Kentucky Heritage Council

city, town Frankfort state Kentucky

## 7. Description

**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

Brandenburg, situated on the Ohio River in the northwestern section of the State, is the seat of government for Meade County which is comprised of a land area of 305 square miles. Meade County is located in the Pennyrole Section of Kentucky, and is part of the Mississippian geological formation characterized by the Ohio River Valleys and the "barrens," rugged hilly and broken land. The county is bounded for 58 miles by the Ohio River. Other major waterways are Doe, Otter, Spring, and Wolf Creeks. The town of Brandenburg is located on two hills known as East and West Hills and the valley between the hills. Historically, Brandenburg, the largest town in the county with a population of 1,831 in 1980, has been the commercial, cultural and major riverport in Meade County.

On April 3, 1974, Brandenburg was devastated by a tornado. Destruction occurred throughout the town, and thirty-one people died as a result of the tornado. Over half of the dwellings and buildings in the town were destroyed or heavily damaged by the tornado. Main Street was especially devastated including the Meade County Courthouse, an impressive two-story building of brick construction built in 1878, and several commercial buildings. The five commercial buildings on Main Street which survived the tornado were so heavily damaged that their subsequent rehabilitation and repair resulted in loss of their architectural integrity. Many residences possessing architectural significance were destroyed by the tornado and included several Federal and Greek Revival dwellings, and an impressive collection of late nineteenth century vernacular architectural resources.

The Historic Resources of Brandenburg is comprised of seven buildings which include five dwellings, the Brandenburg United Methodist Church, and the Old Meade County Jail. These structures represent the best architectural resources of Brandenburg. Construction dates range from 1825-26 to 1906. Five of the buildings are defined as vernacular architectural resources while the two remaining structures are excellent illustrations of the Gothic Revival and Queen Anne styles. Of the five vernacular buildings, two are residences which represent significant examples of late nineteenth century vernacular architecture, and a single dwelling which is a good illustration of early twentieth century vernacular architecture. The two remaining structures, the Brandenburg United Methodist Church and the Meade County Jail are significant representations of mid-eighteenth century vernacular architecture and early twentieth century vernacular architecture.

Although many buildings were destroyed by the 1974 tornado, after considerable historical research and interviews with local historians, property owners, and older citizens of Brandenburg, it can be surmised that the periods of greatest building activity in the town appear to have been about 1825-1860 and 1870-1910. These periods correspond roughly to settlement and the development of Brandenburg as a riverport, and post-Civil War economic growth.

The Brandenburg United Methodist Church (MD-B-2) is the outstanding representation of mid-eighteenth century vernacular architecture in the town. The one and one-half story brick building, constructed in 1855, has Greek Revival massing with Gothic Revival elements, in particular, lancet windows. The structure is the best example of church architecture in Brandenburg.

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Situated on a high bluff overlooking the Ohio River, the Rankin House (MD-B-1) is the significant representation of the Gothic Revival cottage style in the community. Constructed in 1874 on the site of the original Meade County Courthouse, the one and one-half story dwelling of brick construction incorporated the first Meade County Clerk Office, a single-story brick structure built in 1825-26, as a wing.

A majority of the components of the Historic Resources of Brandenburg were constructed from 1875-1910, the second period of building activity in the town. All the buildings with the exception of the Yeake1 House, an outstanding Queen Anne style dwelling, are defined as late nineteenth and early twentieth century vernacular architecture.

Several aspects of late nineteenth century vernacular dwellings found in Brandenburg seem particularly significant: a common use for ornamentation, asymmetrical massing, and a new desire for free-flowing plans with highly specialized room uses. This period is also characterized by a dramatic increase in the use and manufacture of machined building materials. The Richardson (MD-B-16), Goff-Basket (MD-B-17), and Yeake1 (MD-B-14) houses are excellent representations of late nineteenth century vernacular architecture in Brandenburg.

Early twentieth century vernacular architecture in Brandenburg is characterized by the use of concrete as a building material for both commercial and residential buildings. Although frame continued to be the primary building material for houses, several concrete block commercial structures were constructed in the town. The Jones-Willis (MD-B-9) is an important illustration of vernacular dwellings of concrete construction in Brandenburg.

The historic sites survey of Brandenburg, Meade County, Kentucky, was conducted during the Fall of 1983 by William G. Johnson, Senior Historian. The survey is part of a ten-year project of the Kentucky Heritage Commission to survey the state's historical and archaeological resources on a county-by-county basis.

National Register criteria were applied to all structures viewed in Brandenburg. Structures meeting National Register criteria are included in this nomination and those not fulfilling the necessary criteria are omitted from the nomination. The survey process involved examining every standing structure in the town. To supplement the field survey of Brandenburg published histories of the area were consulted, historical research was conducted in local and state depositories, and local historians and owners of properties were interviewed to identify properties possessing local significance. City and USGS maps were used for the town of Brandenburg. Individual structures that met minimum standards of architectural or historical significance were described, documented, mapped, photographed, site plans drawn and given a site identification number consisting of the Smithsonian designation for Meade County, MD, B for Brandenburg, and a number. All of this information was recorded on Kentucky Historic Resources Inventory forms. Following the completion of the field survey, interviews and historical research, each site was evaluated and placed in one of three categories: National Register (those sites meeting National Register criteria individually), Kentucky Survey, and Inventory. The Historic Resources of Brandenburg nomination includes all of those sites in the National Register category. Twenty-five sites were documented in Brandenburg and seven are nominated individually.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1825-1920

Builder/Architect

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Historic Resources of Brandenburg are significant for their historic association with the cultural development of Brandenburg in Meade County, Kentucky.

Meade County, situated on the Ohio River in the northwestern section of the State was created from parts of Breckinridge and Hardin Counties in 1823 by the General Assembly of Kentucky. The county was named in honor of Captain James Meade of Woodford County, Kentucky, who died in the battle of Raisin River during the War of 1812. Brandenburg, on the Ohio River, was established as the seat of government for Meade County in 1823 by an act of the Kentucky Legislature. The town was laid off on sixty-one acres of land owned by Solomon Brandenburg in accordance with the provisions of the 1823 legislation.

The first settlements occurred in the last two decades of the eighteenth century in Hill Grove, along the banks of Doe Run and Otter Creeks, and the present site of Brandenburg on the Ohio River. Jonathan Essery constructed the first corn mill, an undershot corn-cracker, below the mouth of the Blue Spring branch of Doe Run Creek. The first flour mill in the county was built by James Overton on Otter Creek. George Oldham, Jr., built the first house in Brandenburg, a log cabin which was situated on the site of the third Meade County Courthouse and Public Square.

The earliest transportation routes were buffalo trails, deer runs, creek beds and the Ohio River. The lack of good roads contributed to the early growth of Brandenburg as a riverport and shipping center for the region. By 1814 Solomon Brandenburg, who had acquired the land where the town of Brandenburg later would be laid off in 1825, had established Brandenburg's Landing and Ferry. From 1814 to 1830 Brandenburg was the most active shipping point on the Ohio River between Louisville and Owensboro. During this period permanent settlements were being made in the Indiana Territory, and Brandenburg's location on the Ohio River, a major route into the new territory, attributed to the early growth and prosperity of the town. Unfortunately, Brandenburg's early prosperity as a shipping center was dealt a severe blow due to lengthy and bitter land litigations between Brandenburg, Joseph Atwill, sixteen individuals who purchased land from Brandenburg, and Dr. Samuel Bleight of Philadelphia. The litigations over grants of land were initiated by Dr. Bleight who eventually lost the suits. Despite the favorable court ruling for Brandenburg and other citizens, the town never achieved its early prominence and prosperity as an important shipping center on the Ohio River.

The seven components of the Historic Resources of Brandenburg represent the best architectural and cultural resources of the town. This select group consists of five dwellings, the Brandenburg United Methodist Church, and the old Meade County Jail. In addition to their architectural importance, the Brandenburg United Methodist Church is significant in the area of religion as the first Methodist Society organized in the town, while the former Meade County Jail possesses significance in the area of politics and government.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property See Individual Inventory Forms

Quadrangle name Mauckport & Guston

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 

Zone	Easting			Northing					

B 

Zone	Easting			Northing					

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

See KY Historic Resource Inventory Supplement Boundary & Location Information

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title William G. Johnson, Senior Historian

organization Kentucky Heritage Council

date April 1984

street & number 12th Floor, Capital Plaza Tower

telephone 502/564-7005

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 Mary Corman Appel

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date May 24, 1984

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

See Continuation sheet for Justins date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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In April 1974 the town of Brandenburg was devastated by a tornado. Extensive damage and destruction occurred throughout the town and over half of the buildings were severely damaged or destroyed in the catastrophe. Many architecturally significant residences including several Federal and Greek Revival dwellings and an impressive collection of late nineteenth century vernacular architectural resources were destroyed by the tornado. The Meade County Courthouse, an impressive two-story structure of brick construction built in 1873, situated on Main Street and overlooking the Ohio River, was destroyed by the tornado. Yet, the Meade County Jail, constructed in 1906, situated next to the courthouse, was not damaged by the storm.

Despite the tremendous loss of architectural resources, upon completion of the field survey, considerable historical research, and interviews with local historians, property owners, and older citizens of Brandenburg, it can be surmised that the periods of greatest building activity appear to have been about 1825-1860 and 1870-1910. These periods roughly correspond to settlement and the development of Brandenburg as a shipping center, and post-Civil War economic growth.

As a result of the tornado, only a few buildings survive from the first period of building activity in the town. The Brandenburg United Methodist Church (MD-B-2), constructed in 1855, represents the best example of mid-eighteenth century vernacular architecture in the town. The brick structure, executed in common bond brickwork, is a significant representation of vernacular church architecture, and is the most architecturally significant church in the community. The incorporation of Gothic style lancet windows in 1893 augment the architectural importance of this structure.

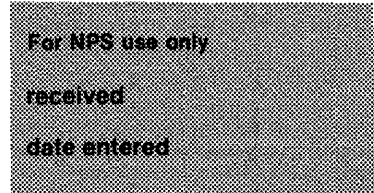
Six buildings in the Brandenburg resource area were constructed from 1870-1910, second period of greatest building activity in the community. Two of the dwellings are defined as late nineteenth century vernacular architecture. A one-story concrete block residence constructed ca.1910 and the Meade County Jail are defined as early twentieth century vernacular architecture. The two remaining houses are the best representations of formal architectural styles, Gothic Revival cottage and Queen Anne.

The Rankin House, an impressive one and one-half story brick structure situated on a high bluff overlooking the Ohio River, is the best example of a Gothic Revival cottage in the town. The dwelling which was constructed on the site of the original Meade County Courthouse and incorporated the original Meade County Clerk Office, a one-story brick structure executed in Flemish bond brickwork, as a wing, also is significant in the area of politics/government.

Late nineteenth century vernacular architecture is best exemplified by the Richardson House (MD-B-16), a one and one-half story frame dwelling and the Goff-Baskett House (MD-B-17), a two-story residence of frame construction. Both dwellings exhibit excellent design and craftsmanship, use of ornamentation and asymmetrical massing.

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The Yeake1 House (MD-B-14), situated on Decatur Street, is the best representation of the Queen Anne style in the town. The asymmetrical massing of the impressive frame dwelling displays prominent elements of the style, especially the use of decorative ornamentation.

Completing the nomination is the Meade County Jail. The two-story brick structure is an important representation of early twentieth century vernacular architecture in Brandenburg, and is also significant in the area of politics and government. Utilizing the brick and limestone foundation of the second county jail, the building was constructed as the third county jail in 1906 by the Panly Jail Company at a cost of \$7,447, and included the jailer's residence.

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Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name BRANDENBURG  
Bradenburg Multiple Resource Area  
State Meade County, KENTUCKY

- | Nomination/Type of Review  | Date/Signature  |
|--|---|
| 1. Brandenburg Methodist Episcopal Church<br><i>Submitted to the National Register</i> | <i>(Accept done nomination)</i><br><i>P. Reed 8/14/84 CD 8/14</i><br>Keeper <u>Melora Byers 8/14/84</u><br>Attest _____ |
| 2. Goff-Baskett House<br><i>Substantive Review</i>                                     | Keeper <u>L. Maki 8/14/84</u><br>Attest <u>P. Reed 8/14/84</u>  |
| 3. Meade County Clerk Office-Rankin House<br><i>Submitted to the National Register</i> | <i>for</i> Keeper <u>Melora Byers 8/14/84</u><br>Attest _____   |
| 4. Jones-Willis House<br><i>Submitted to the National Register</i>                     | <i>for</i> Keeper <u>Melora Byers 8/14/84</u><br>Attest _____   |
| 5. Meade County Jail<br><i>Entered in the National Register</i>                        | <i>for</i> Keeper <u>Melora Byers 8/14/84</u><br>Attest _____   |
| 6. Richardson House<br><i>Submitted to the National Register</i>                       | <i>for</i> Keeper <u>Melora Byers 8/14/84</u><br>Attest _____   |
| 7. Yeakel, Edward, House<br><i>Entered in the National Register</i>                    | <i>for</i> Keeper <u>Melora Byers 8/14/84</u><br>Attest _____   |
| 8.   | Keeper _____<br>Attest _____  |
| 9.   | Keeper _____<br>Attest _____  |
| 10.  | Keeper _____<br>Attest _____  |