

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**DATA SHEET**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUL 17 1975

DATE ENTERED

SEP 9 1975

**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

Brunewood

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

714 North Third Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Bardstown

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

02

STATE

Kentucky

CODE

021

COUNTY

Nelson

CODE

179

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

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Bare

STREET & NUMBER

714 North Third Street

CITY, TOWN

Bardstown

VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Nelson County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

East Stephen Foster Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Bardstown

STATE

Kentucky

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky

DATE

1971

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Kentucky Heritage Commission

CITY, TOWN

401 Wapping Street Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

# 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

Bruntwood is a large late Greek Revival house with interesting outbuildings. The main house is set back some distance from the main north-south road that enters Bardstown from Louisville at about this point. At present a gas station is located between the house and the thoroughfare, and there is a motel closing off the north side of the property. It is hoped, that these intrusions may eventually be eliminated.

The main house is rectangular with a narrow rectangular service wing (now apartments) extending westward to the rear behind the north rooms of the main block. The house rests over a full basement with foundations made of large native limestone blocks. In the past, the basement was utilized as a kitchen and servants quarters. The walls of the two main stories and the extension off the basement are of solid brick divided at regular intervals by rather slender pilasters. These walls are capped by a broad, flat wooden cornice of banded and dentil moldings (see photo 3). The structure has a hipped roof crowned with a rectangular cupola enclosed by large, square paned windows and a handsome modillioned cornice (see photo 4). The exterior severity is broken by an elaborate wrought iron balustrade atop the one-story porch and between the paired, square piers (see photo 2). There is a handsome double-door entrance on the second floor which opens out onto the portico roof.

The interior of the house is divided into four square rooms measuring 19' by 19' on both the second and third floors. A broad central hall is also 19 feet wide and 38 feet long. This entrance hall concludes at the rear by a soaring "cantilevered" spiral staircase which opens out onto a second story hall of the same size as the one below and proceeds to the attic story (see photo 5).

The interior of the servants wing has been altered but the exterior remains intact; an interesting "primitive" staircase inside may also be original (see photo 11). A short distance to the northwest of the house where the ground falls away to the west, is a smaller brick residence, perhaps built around 1820. It is a simple rectangular two-story block, a single room flanking the hall on both floors. The stone foundations follow the fall of the ground. The most interesting feature is the false windows in the otherwise bare end walls (see photo 12). To the north of the main house is a two-story brick smokehouse now converted into a dwelling (see photo 13).

A board-and-batten barn southwest of the main house has been transformed into an antique shop.

At one time there was a sawmill in the low ground to the west of the house and, until recently, a carriage house north of the smokehouse.

*Excluded: ... ..  
see Central ...*

# 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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

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## SPECIFIC DATES

1840

## BUILDER/ARCHITECT

John Rogers

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## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Bruntwood, an interesting variation of the Greek Revival style of architecture, was built by Ruth V. Bealmer and her husband Joseph Brown. Ruth Bealmer was the daughter of Samuel C. Bealmer, an early settler of Bardstown.

Samuel Bealmer purchased three thousand acres of land surrounding the original location of the frontier "Rogers Fort." In his will, dated November 21, 1836, he divided his land and his slaves among his wife and children.

Before his death, Colonel Bealmer established homes for three of his children. His daughter Ruth married Joseph Brown and settled on a twenty acre estate just outside of Bardstown on the old Louisville Turnpike. The young couple moved into a small brick house which still stands behind the main structure of Bruntwood. On this tract of land they built the stately residence which they named Bruntwood and occupied around 1845. The house is said to have been designed by John Rogers of Baltimore, architect of St. Joseph's Cathedral, built in Bardstown (1816) (see the National Register form on St. Joseph's Cathedral, Nelson County, Kentucky, placed on the Register January 9, 1974). The designer was apparently caught up in the Greek Revival rage for order to the point of being obsessed with the square. Yet Bruntwood's size and regularity combine to create an impression of power and dignity. Joseph Brown's brother, John Marshall Brown, is known to have built Bardstown's two most famous houses--Federal Hill, known as "My Old Kentucky Home" and Wickland, home of three governors.

After the Browns, the residence was owned by Nat W. Halstead, a lawyer and County Attorney.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Smith, Sarah Borders Historic Bardstown, Nelson County. Shepherdsville, Kentucky: Publishers Printing Co., 1968, p. 41.

Court Records in the Nelson County Court House, Bardstown, Kentucky

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 | 635210 | 4186840  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B [ ] | [ ] | [ ]  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C [ ] | [ ] | [ ]  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D [ ] | [ ] | [ ]  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

UTM OK 1973  
10 8-00

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Sarah B. Smith, Nelson County Representative

ORGANIZATION

Kentucky Heritage Commission

DATE

Sept. 25, 1973

STREET & NUMBER

517 North Third Street

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Bardstown

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.

SIGNATURE

*Eldred W. Melton*

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

7-14-75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*A. W. ...*

DATE

9/9/75

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

*W. ...*

DATE

SEP 8 1975

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER