

PH0364941

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAY 10 1976

DATE ENTERED

NOV 7 1976

**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
* Beechland/Vaucluse (Jacob Yoder House)
AND/OR COMMON
Vaucluse

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
2 1/2 miles north of Taylorsville
CITY, TOWN
Taylorsville
STATE
Kentucky

VICINITY OF
02
COUNTY
Spencer

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
215

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Mrs. Knox Brown
STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Taylorsville

VICINITY OF
Kentucky

STATE
Kentucky

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Spencer County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Taylorsville

STATE
Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky

DATE
1971

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS
Kentucky Heritage Commission

CITY, TOWN
Frankfort

STATE
Kentucky

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Yoder house is located on an imposing rise which overlooks the surrounding rolling farmland. It has remained isolated as its builder, Jacob Yoder, seems to have intended. The house itself is surrounded by large pecan trees. The old Frankfort road approached the house from the northwest and turned sharply to the south just before reaching the house. The present country road runs east and west about a quarter of a mile north of the front of the house. (See photos 1 & 6.)

The house is a five-bay, three-story brick structure with a one-story wing on the west side. The facade and northeast side of the house are laid in Flemish bond with queen closers, while the back and southwest sides are laid in common. The front entrance is a delicate arched doorway with a spider-web-like fanlight above. The details include a series of rope moldings and a reeded band with a wavy line through its center. As a whole, it is very similar to the entrance of Liberty Hall in Frankfort, Kentucky. The entrance is framed by a small later Greek Revival porch, with large square columns. A larger screened-in porch, similar to the front but spanning three bays, is located along the rear south side of the main floor of the house. (See photos 3 & 4.)

Although according to family tradition the exterior of the house has undergone no major alterations, the addition of these porches is not only evident on stylistic grounds -- the contrast between the delicacy of the doorway and other details and simple boldness of the porches -- but also supported by the half-submerged door sill and disappearance of the upper portion of the door-casing under the ceiling of the front porch. Perhaps they were added after Yoder's death in 1832. The plain flat cornice of the main block which runs over the upper window arches also seems to date from this period.

There is also some question as to whether the west wing was added after the main block was built. It has lower foundations, but most other features seem to confirm that it was contemporary with the house. There are molded sills throughout and the basement openings have segmental but flat-topped brick arches. Three tiny ornamental pressed-glass panes were found in basement windows, a unique and curious feature. Also interesting is the border of large flat stones set in the ground all around the foundations, supposedly for ladies taking exercise.

Vaucluse is laid out with a wide central hall and a single large room on either side on both stories, and a one-story wing on the west. The stairway begins on the right of the hall and makes a half turn with full landing. The stair leading to the third floor is identical to the stair leading to the second floor, with simple, slender newels and balusters, gentle goosenecks on the rail, and elegant curved pendants and stringers. The mantels in the two downstairs rooms are Federal with rope moldings and reeding in a chevron design. The panels beneath the windows, whose sides are slightly angled, reflect the pattern of the mantels. The mantels on the second floor are also reeded but in a simpler design. Chair-railing survives in the hall, parlors, and upstairs closets.

(continued)

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES **1804**

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Jacob Yoder

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Beechland was built in 1804 by the Revolutionary War soldier and innovative merchant-trader, Jacob Yoder. Yoder was the first entrepreneur to take a load of goods down the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers on a flat boat from Pennsylvania to New Orleans. He also helped finance early experiments with steampowered ships. The house is one of the oldest houses of historic significance remaining in Spencer County and, although relatively plain in architectural conception, has fine craftsmanship, a number of exquisite details, and interesting outbuildings set in an unspoiled landscape of considerable beauty.

Jacob Yoder was born in Reading, Pennsylvania, August 1758. His father, a native of Holland, came to America in 1742. Jacob Yoder served in the Revolutionary War and under General Benjamin Logan (founder of Logan's Fort 1781) in a campaign against the Shawnee Indians in 1787. In 1794 Yoder furnished fifty horses and other supplies to several regiments joining General Wayne's army, whose march against the Indians was successful and culminated in a victory over all the tribes in the old Northwest Territory.

In 1782 Yoder left Fort Redstone (now Brownsville, Pennsylvania) on a flatboat loaded with produce and floated down the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers to New Orleans. This was the first time a trip of this nature had been made. Yoder sold his goods to the Spanish commandant in return for furs. At the time Havana was the clearing house for furs received from the Mississippi River basin. Yoder returned to Baltimore with the furs, making large profits.

Three years later he settled in Bardstown, Kentucky. Here he married Mary Mossman. While coming down the Ohio River he had met and became friends with John Fitch, the reputed inventor of the steamboat. Fitch first conceived the idea of a boat powered by steam in 1785 and made the first successful trial in 1786 on the Delaware River. Yoder helped John Fitch finance his steamboat activity, but owing to Fitch's mismanagement Yoder lost a great deal of money he had advanced to him.

In February 1801 a duel took place between two of Yoder's Bardstown friends. Judge John Rowan, one of the finest criminal lawyers in the State and the builder of Federal Hill (see the National Register form for Federal Hill, Bardstown, Nelson County, Kentucky, placed

(continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Coleman, J. Winston, Jr. Historic Kentucky. Lexington: Henry Clay Press, 1968.
 "Judge Mason Brown, " The Biographical Encyclopedia of Kentucky of Dead and Living Men of the Nineteenth Century. Cincinnati: J. M. Armstrong & Co., 1874.
 Smith, Sarah B. Historic Nelson County. Louisville: Gateway Press, Inc., 1971.
The Spencer Magnet. (Taylorsville) September 29, 1949.
The Courier-Journal. (Louisville) April 6, 1952. (continued)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Five Acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,6	645 6,5,4	6,5,0	4,2	1,3	6,5,0	B					
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING					ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		
C							D					

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Walter L. Langsam and Mary Cronan

ORGANIZATION

Kentucky Heritage Commission

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

104 Bridge Street

TELEPHONE

502/564-3741

CITY OR TOWN

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Edward W. Mellon

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE April 4, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ATTEST: Cons. [Signature]
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE 11/9/98

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 11/2/98

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NOV 7 1976

Beechland/Vaucluse (Jacob Yoder House)

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

7

PAGE

2

The room to the west of the present dining room appears originally to have been used as a dining area. To the right of the fireplace is an arched cupboard whose details resemble those of the front entrance. Other interesting features include a huge iron lock and key on the front door, a neoclassical Franklin stove in the parlor, and a set of antlers placed on the first-story landing to carry fire buckets.

An old stone kitchen with an unusual front step-parapet is located immediately southwest of the house. Several characteristic features survive in the downstairs kitchen and loft above. According to tradition Jacob Yoder and his family lived in the stone structure while building the main house. A few hundred feet to the southwest is a log cabin, the only one remaining of the many original slave quarters, some of which were constructed of stone, since reused for fences. Several hundred yards north of the house, down the slope, is a half-stone, half-timbered spring house. Situated a quarter of a mile west of Vaucluse is the site of an Indian encampment where, it is said, Indians would come to trade with Yoder. Many Indian artifacts have been found there by members of the Brown family. (See photos 7, 9, & 10.)

The only recent alteration to the main house has been the incorporation of a bathroom in an upstairs bedroom, the modernization of the kitchen and original "loom room" beyond, and the enclosure of part of the gallery along the south side of the west wing, which has a stair originally outside leading to the loft above. A bell-post and hand-pump remain south of the kitchen near the site of a former flower garden behind the main floor of the house.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

on the Register March 11, 1971), had a disagreement over cards with Dr. James Chambers, a young physician. The duel resulted in Chambers' death. According to tradition, Yoder was so horrified at the pointless duel between his two friends that he moved to an isolated spot where such atrocities would not be likely to take place. Consequently a few years later Yoder moved to what was to become Spencer County, a still generally unsettled area northeast of Nelson County, a mile north of the county seat, Taylorsville. There he began construction in 1806 of the large brick house he called Beechland, while living in the stone building later used as a kitchen, on the property he had bought at a courthouse sale in 1803. In an 1831 tax list for Spencer County, Yoder is listed as having 1,300 acres on Brashears Creek and 29 slaves. Yoder resided at Beechland until his death in 1832. A large cast-iron tablet covers his grave located south of the house. Cast by Hanks and Niles, it is said to have been the first cast-iron tablet produced west of the Alleghenies. The tablet was ordered and placed by Yoder's friend, Captain Joseph Pierce.

Yoder's eldest daughter Eliza, born in 1795, married David Rozelle Poignard, a merchant of Huguenot descent from Boston, who came to Louisville in 1813. The Poignards renamed the house Vaucluse, after a small town in France, and lived there until their deaths in 1883. Poignard was considered a skilled cabinetmaker, and several fine cupboards and furniture in the house are attributed to him. Mary Yoder, born in 1811 and youngest Yoder child, was the second wife of Judge Mason Brown of Frankfort. Brown was born in Philadelphia in November 1799, the son of the Honorable John Brown and Margaretta Mason Brown. He was graduated from Yale in 1820 and studied law. Brown served on the Circuit Bench from 1839-1849. Between 1855-1859 he served as Secretary of State under Governor Charles Morehead. He was also co-author of the Digest of the Statute Laws of Kentucky (see the National Register form for Liberty Hall, Frankfort Franklin County, Kentucky, placed on the Register March 11, 1971).

At the Poignards' deaths Mason and Mary Yoder Brown's son, Knox, inherited the property, which has remained in the family to the present day.

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Major Bibliographical References

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 2

Mary Frances Brown, ed. "Spencer County 1824-1974; Taylorsville 1799-1974."
Taylorsville, 1974.

Atlas of Nelson and Spencer Cos., Ky. Philadelphia: D. J. Lake S Co., 1882.