

PH0364690

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECORDED 3 1976

DATE ENTERED

MAY 17 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 *wh*
The Cedars (Benjamin Lone Rogers House)
AND/OR COMMON
The Cedars

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER *ky*
State Highway 1214 *E of Leitchfield*
CITY, TOWN Leitchfield VICINITY OF Leitchfield
STATE Kentucky CODE 021 COUNTY Grayson CODE 085
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 02

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" 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"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mrs. Ruby T. Jones
STREET & NUMBER 209 North English
CITY, TOWN Leitchfield VICINITY OF Leitchfield STATE Kentucky

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Grayson County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN Leitchfield STATE Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky (Supplement)
DATE 1975
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Kentucky Heritage Commission
CITY, TOWN Frankfort STATE Kentucky

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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 Cedars is located on Highway 1214 midway between Leitchfield, county seat of Grayson County, and Grayson Springs, once-famous sulphur springs resort. The house is situated in a grove of trees in a valley on the north side of the highway, surrounded by green fields. Helm Fork flows west of the house and the rolling hills nearby are wooded.

The Cedars is a five-bay, two-story brick structure laid on a foundation of rectangular limestone blocks. It is said that the foundations, seven feet deep, were allowed to settle for a year before the walls were erected above them. The facade is laid in Flemish bond, with the sides common bond. Original lined mortar remains. Stone lintels with concentric circles in the extended corner blocks and slightly projecting stone sills frame the front windows. The first-floor windows have nine-over-six-pane sashes, while the second-floor have six-over-six.

The front entrance is a narrow door with transom with a tri-light window centered above the door. A simple single-story porch added at the turn of the century is supported by delicate square posts framing the entrance. Railing extends around the top of the porch. The apparently dentilated cornice on the facade consists of alternately raised bricks.

An interior chimney is centered at each end of the house. There are two small square attic windows on either side of the chimney in the gables. The carved initials of Benjamin Lone Rogers and the date of completion, 1847, appear in the end gable at the west side.

The walls of the main block are 13" thick and the rooms have 10' ceilings. A central hall with a wide staircase is flanked by a single room on each side. It appears that a thin partition dividing the right (east) upper room from the upstairs hall is not original; according to tradition, this was a single large space referred to as the "ballroom" (perhaps also used as a male dormitory). There was originally also a closed stair leading to the upstairs left (west) chamber from the northwest corner of the parlor below; a door connecting this upper room with the stairhall-ballroom was only opened in the last thirty-five years.

There is evidence of chair-railing having once been present throughout the downstairs; it still exists in the upper right room.

There are five wood-burning fireplaces in the house. Handsome walnut cupboards flank the right parlor mantel and the left side of that in the left parlor (its counterpart on the right side of the mantel was originally the closed stair; windows were opened in the wall both upstairs and down when the stair was removed in this century).

The plain panelled mantel in the right parlor is less interesting than that in the left parlor, which may have been considered less formal. It has a shelf consisting of multiple moldings, broken forward at center and ends, and unique spindles split in half to flank the opening.

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

SPECIFIC DATES ca. 1789, 1847

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Benjamin Lone Rogers (1847)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The main block of The Cedars was built in 1847 by Benjamin Lone Rogers. The nucleus of the house (now the kitchen) is a circa 1789 log house believed to have been constructed by the first settlers of what is now Grayson County (their names are unrecorded). The house is located on the road to Grayson Springs Resort, a famous Kentucky sulphur springs, and the county seat, Leitchfield. The Cedars, one of the oldest brick houses in the county, is a severely plain but handsome transitional Greek Revival structure, with its flat stone lintels, triple window over the entrance, and dentilated cornice to distinguish it from the earlier Georgian-Federal type of house design. There are also interesting mantels and cupboards inside.

The majority of the early settlers of mid-western Kentucky came from Virginia, having been awarded land grants in the area for service in the Revolutionary War; most of the land (5,000 acres) in present Grayson County had in fact once belonged to George Washington. Those settling in Western Kentucky arrived later than those who settled in the Bluegrass region. When the log cabin at Rogers Springs was built in 1789, the area was densely timbered and heavily populated with wild game. The land was well suited for farming, which became the major occupation; in spite of a new elevated highway that cuts off the view down a valley in front of the house, The Cedars is still surrounded by fine cultivated fields and woodlands.

In 1847 Benjamin Rogers purchased the land around Rogers Springs and began construction of The Cedars. Rogers boarded the outside and paneled the inside of the original log cabin and constructed the present brick main block in front of the log one. Benjamin Rogers, born in 1812 in Nelson County, Kentucky, was the son of Joseph and Anny Lone Rogers. He married Nancy Wortham in 1829. Rogers was known as a wealthy, innovative farmer. Five years after the construction of the house, he was killed as a result of a fall from his horse: the horse bolted and threw his rider after being frightened when a gust of wind blew off Rogers' hat and dispersed the mail he had inserted in it while returning from Leitchfield.

At his death, Rogers left the estate to his nephew, Henry Clay Rogers, Jr., whose father, Henry Clay Rogers, Sr., Benjamin Rogers' brother, lived across the creek from The Cedars.

(continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Clark, Thomas D. A History of Kentucky. Lexington: The John Bradford Press, 1960.
 Collins, Lewis. Historical Sketches of Kentucky. Maysville: The Author, 1847.
The Leitchfield Gazette. Bicentennial Issue, 1975.
 Nelson County, Kentucky, marriage records.
 Additional information from the owner.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 5 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,6 | 5,6,5 | 6,8,0 | 4,1 | 4,7 | 5,6,0
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

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

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

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

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

Mary Cronan, Staff Historian

WEL

ORGANIZATION

Kentucky Heritage Commission

DATE

October 1975

STREET & NUMBER

104 Bridge Street

TELEPHONE

564-3741

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

Eldred W. Milton

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

2/20/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

5/17/76

Acting DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

Charles A. ...

DATE

5-17-76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 2

The original log cabin, now used as the kitchen, adjoins the back (north) of the main block of the house with a now-enclosed brick "dogtrot" between. The cabin was weather-boarded in 1847, when the brick house was added. A columned gallery is situated along the east side of the cabin and dogtrot.

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ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

H. C. Rogers, Sr., was a blacksmith and later served as county judge in Leitchfield for twelve years. H. C. Rogers, Jr., continued to operate The Cedars farm.

In 1895, Rogers sold the property to Dr. John H. Kenny of Paducah, Kentucky. Twenty years later The Cedars was sold to John B. Thomason, a prominent livestock buyer. It has since been well maintained with few affects of modernization.