

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

PH 0678651

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

MAR 6 1979

DATE ENTERED

APR 16 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

Bracken County Infirmary

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

NE of Chatham on KY 19

STREET & NUMBER

State Highway 19, near Chatham

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Chatham

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

07

X VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky

CODE

021

COUNTY

Bracken

CODE

023

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

___ DISTRICT

___ PUBLIC

X OCCUPIED

___ AGRICULTURE

___ MUSEUM

X BUILDING(S)

X PRIVATE

___ UNOCCUPIED

___ COMMERCIAL

___ PARK

___ STRUCTURE

___ BOTH

___ WORK IN PROGRESS

___ EDUCATIONAL

___ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

___ SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

___ ENTERTAINMENT

___ RELIGIOUS

___ OBJECT

___ IN PROCESS

X YES: RESTRICTED

___ GOVERNMENT

___ SCIENTIFIC

___ BEING CONSIDERED

___ YES: UNRESTRICTED

___ INDUSTRIAL

___ TRANSPORTATION

___ NO

___ MILITARY

X OTHER: Apts.

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Harold Perkins

STREET & NUMBER

1801 Holman Street

CITY, TOWN

Covington

VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Bracken County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Brooksville

STATE

Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky

DATE

1971

___ FEDERAL X STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Kentucky Heritage Commission

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

The Bracken County Infirmary is situated on a slight rise on State Highway 19 overlooking the rolling hill country of Bracken County near the small community of Chatham.

Constructed in 1885 by Samuel Wetmore, a builder from Ohio, the 2 1/2-story brick building is ten bays wide with a first floor veranda. The main entrance is accented by a three-pane transom and single-pane sidelights, over which is a double window. The windows are original, and are two-over-two pane with plain wooden lintels.

A truncated hipped roof with roof dormers and a central pavilion cover the structure. The central pavilion is accented by a pair of narrow double-hung sash windows.

The original property was comprised of 150 acres of farmland, the main structure, a one-story brick kitchen directly behind the infirmary, three barns, a hog barn, and a one-story frame structure toward the rear of the farm, all of which survive today.

The county home was used until 1968. In 1969, the Bracken County court sold the 150 acre farm, the main building and all outbuildings to Harold Perkins, who converted the main structure into apartments. A barn and a hog barn, which are in close proximity to the main building were also converted into use as apartments.

The nomination comprises a rectangular lot of six acres to include the main structure and all outbuildings.

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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" 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		

SPECIFIC DATES 1885

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Samuel Wetmore

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Constructed in 1885 near the small community of Chatham in northeastern Kentucky, the Bracken County Infirmary is the earliest remaining institution in the county built to provide a home and place of refuge for the indigent and elderly citizens of Bracken County, and served this purpose from 1886-1968.¹

The 2 1/2-story brick building which contained 40 rooms, was constructed by Samuel Wetmore from Ohio.² The County Home opened in February 1886 and consisted of 150 acres fertile land, the main building, a brick kitchen directly behind the infirmary, several outbuildings, and a frame house toward the rear of the farm where individuals with communicable diseases were housed, isolated from the other residents at the home.³

The infirmary was almost entirely self-sufficient. The land was farmed for the cultivation of a cash crop and the production of food for the county home. Cattle and hogs were raised for meat and milk, and at one time the home had the finest herd of registered Herefords in the county, as well as registered Jerseys.⁴ The supervisor of the home, in addition to his administrative duties, grew the cash crop and other crops. Residents who were physically able worked on the farm.

The infirmary remained in operation until 1968 when it was closed due to the existence of new social welfare programs on both state and federal levels which provide for indigent individuals. A year later, the county home, outbuildings and land was sold to a private individual by the Bracken County court. The new owner has converted the main building, as well as two of the outbuildings, into apartments.

¹The first infirmary or county home was a log structure situated on Turtle Creek near Augusta.

²Bracken County Homemakers, Recollection: Yesterday, Today for Tomorrow; A History of Bracken County, p. 37.

³Ibid.

⁴Brooksville Fire Department, Brooksville Centennial, 1839-1939, p. 71.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bracken County Homemakers, Recollections: Yesterday, Today for Tomorrow, A History of Bracken County. Brooksville, Kentucky: Poage Printing Co., 1969.

Bracken County Order Book for 1885.

(continued)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 6 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Brooksville

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES
 A 16 759680 4289440
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 C
 E
 G

B
 D
 F
 H
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated six acres comprise a rectangular lot that includes the main building and accompanying outbuildings. The nominated site fronts State Highway 19 on the northwest and is surrounded by open farmland in all other directions.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
William G. Johnson, Historian

ORGANIZATION
Kentucky Heritage Commission

STREET & NUMBER
104 Bridge Street

CITY OR TOWN
Frankfort

DATE
November 1978

TELEPHONE
564-3741

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 *Edward W. Johnson*

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer DATE 2/26/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ATTEST: *[Signature]* DATE 4-16-79
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 4/16/79

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Bracken County Infirmary

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

Although altered, the main building, together with almost all its original outbuildings remaining, reveals much about the care of the indigent during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

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Interview with Mr. Garnett High, long-time resident of Bracken County who grew up on a farm near the county home.

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