

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received JUN 11 1984
date entered JUL 12 1984

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

1. Name

historic The John Stone House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number U. S. Highway 62 not for publication

city, town Bloomfield vic. vicinity of

state Kentucky code county Nelson code

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Eli Brown IV

street & number 2225 Citizen Plaza

city, town Louisville vicinity of state Kentucky

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Nelson County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Bardstown state Kentucky

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1978 federal state county local

depository for survey records Kentucky Heritage Council

city, town 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 type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The John Stone House is located one-half mile south of Bloomfield, Nelson County, off Highway 62. It is situated on a gentle slope above the east fork of Simpson Creek.

Built in 1802, the house is a three-bay, two-story I house with a one-story, one-room wing off the west gable end. A one and a half story frame ell, dating from the 1850s extends off the rear of the wing.

A substantial one-story Greek Revival porch with a pediment frames the front entrance which has a four-light transom. The first floor windows have 9/9 pane sash while the second floor openings have 6/9 pane sash. All of the openings have jack arches above and wood sills below. The walls of the main block are laid in Flemish bond with the gable end walls having glazed headers. The brick rests on coursed fieldstone. An interior brick chimney is centered in each gable end.

The floor plan of the Stone house consists of a central hall with a room off each side. Enclosed corner stairs are located in the end wall of the west room and the ell. The original stair in the east parlor has been removed. A late 19th century straight run stair with turned balusters is located in the central hall. Vertical beaded boards form the partitions on the first and second floors of the main block.

The front and rear doors of the main block have six panels on the exterior and have diagonally placed beaded boards on the interior. The other interior doors of the main block are raised six panels. The Federal door and window moldings as well as chairrail remain intact throughout the main block and wing. The ell has Greek eared molding and double vertical panel doors.

The most notable architectural feature of the house is the paneled wall of the east parlor. The east wall is composed of a mantel and overmantel flanked by built-in cupboards. The mantel has stencilled side panels with marbelized horizontal panels across the top. There is a stencilled design between each panel.

The overmantel is formed by six vertical panels with three horizontal panels above. In the top center panel is another stencilled design, while in the left panel is a painting of a boat on a lake with an oriental flavor. In the right panel is a painting with palm trees in the foreground and what appears to be a volcano in the background. The plaster ceilings in the parlor and second floor hall are also elaborately stencilled.

Only one original outbuilding remains. It is a brick smokehouse which has been extensively altered and is located a hundred yards northeast of the house. Originally there were at least three log cabins situated north of the house. The Stone and Brown Family cemetery is located 500 feet east of the house on a rise. It is enclosed by a stone wall. The entrance to the cemetery is marked by stone pillars crowned by bowls of fruit with a richly ornamented cast-iron gate between.

A fire during the Winter of 1984, originating in the Greek Revival ell, damaged the roof in this section and caused smoke damage in the main block. The house is presently being restored.

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 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 1802

Builder/Architect Daniel Rogers - Builder

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The significance of the John Stone House lies primarily in architecture and the contribution made by the Stone family in the settlement of Nelson County. The house is a composite of features such as glazed headers, wood paneling, and early 19th century stencilling. When considered singularly, these features are found in a few Kentucky houses; but when combined; they form a unique residence. John Stone settled on the house site in 1790. Stone had extensive business interests in a tanyard, distillery, and farm. Succeeding generations of Stones and Browns have lived in this house and played important roles in the business affairs of Nelson County.

John Stone, born in 1744, was a native of Fairfax County, Virginia. In 1790 he moved with his family to Nelson County and settled on 600 acres of land. The construction of the brick house is well documented in Stone's personal papers.

In 1802 Stone hired Daniel Rogers, a brick mason in Nelson County, to construct the brick dwelling. The work on the house was unsatisfactory and John Stone recorded depositions from his neighbors on the construction of the house. Stone, himself, noted that the house was ready for occupancy in December 1802. At that time all of the chimneys smoked and had to be reworked. He went on to write that "in July 1802, the small part of the house which is 22' X 22' and only one-story high and was intended for a kitchen, joining the dwelling house, cracked pretty much, one crack being 9' long and the wall is bulging." Stone corrected the problem by installing tie rods with S clamps. The kitchen fireplace was so poorly constructed that it couldn't be used. He had to have another mason rebuild the firebox. The firebox was made smaller and worked better but could no longer be used for cooking. Consequently, another kitchen had to be constructed.

A comprehensive survey of historic sites in Nelson County was conducted by the Heritage Council staff in 1978. In the course of that survey the John Stone House was found to be unique, although the Tichenor House (NE-28, c.1810) has a similar form (two-story, three-bay, brick I-house with a one-story wing) and the Heavenhill House (NE-153, c.1820) has vertical beaded-board partitions.

There are three other documented houses in Kentucky which made use of glazed headers in Flemish bond brickwork. They are: the William Whitley House, Lincoln County, c.1787; Shawnee Springs, Mercer County, c.1790 (destroyed by fire in 1982); and Spring Hill, Clark County, c.1790 (a log house with brick end chimneys laid in Flemish bond with glazed headers).

According to family tradition, the stencilled ceilings and paneled end wall of the Stone house were painted in the early 1800s by an itinerant painter in preparation of a tour by Louis Phillipe, King of France (1830-1848). The "Citizen King" had traveled through Bardstown in 1797, and in the late 1820s he allegedly donated several paintings to St. Joseph's Cathedral in Bardstown. However, Louis Phillipe never made a second trip

9. Major Bibliographical References

Johnson, E. Polk. A History of Kentucky and Kentuckians. (Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Company 1912).

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property 16

Quadrangle name Bloomfield

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	6	6	4	8	1	1	1	4	1	9	6	1	8	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

B

1	6	6	4	8	4	4	0	4	1	9	6	3	0	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

C

1	6	6	4	8	5	0	0	4	1	9	6	1	2	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

D

1	6	6	4	8	2	0	0	4	1	9	6	0	0	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

E

Zone	Easting				Northing									

F

Zone	Easting				Northing									

G

Zone	Easting				Northing									

H

Zone	Easting				Northing									

Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property includes the brick dwelling, the brick smokehouse and Stone family cemetery. The only intrusion is a manufactured home between the main house and cemetery. Its boundary is delineated by a quadrilateral whose vertices are marked.

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

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mary Cronan Oppel, State Historic Preservation Officer

organization Kentucky Heritage Council

date April 21, 1984

street & number 12th Floor, Capital Plaza Tower

telephone 502-564-7005

city or town Frankfort

state Kentucky 40601

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 Cronan Oppel

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date May 27 1984

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date

7/12/84

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Continuation sheet Nelson County, Kentucky

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to Nelson County. The only other houses in the state that have been documented with comparable painting or art work are the "Three Cohen Mural Houses," Woodford County, which were listed in the National Register in 1978. These houses, however, have wall murals (oil on plaster) with marbelized panels below, painted between the chairrail and baseboard. The murals were painted in the 1830s by Alfred Cohen, a French sign painter, located in Lexington. Interestingly enough, his paintings had a "semi-Mediterranean" quality "with the use of palm trees which may have been inspired by contemporary wall papers or retained as a remembrance of his early childhood in southern France"(Lancaster,p.6).

Upon John Stone's death, the house and farm was left to his youngest son, Eli Hammond Stone. As a young man, Eli Hammond Stone moved to St.Genevieve in the Upper Louisiana Territory and established a tanyard with his brother-in-law. He returned to Bloomfield at his father's death to continue operation of the farm. The house and farm have been passed down from generation to generation of the Stone family. Around the turn of the century it was owned by Eli Huston Brown, Jr., and his brother and sister. Brown, a prominent Kentucky attorney, represented Nelson County in the State Legislature for three terms from 1899 to 1905. The current owners are the seventh generation to continue the maintenance of the house and operation of the farm.

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Lancaster, Clay. "Primitive Mural Painter of Kentucky: Alfred Cohen," American Collector. (December 1948), page 6.

Martin, Betty F. The Stone Family of Northern Neck of Virginia and Kentucky. (1970) Unpublished manuscript in the Kentucky Historical Society, Frankfort, Kentucky.

The John Stone Papers 1773-1941. Eli Brown III, Collector. From the Collection of the Filson Club, Louisville, Kentucky.

"Three Cohen Mural Houses" Woodford County, Kentucky, National Register Nomination. Prepared by Daniel Kidd, 1978, on file at the Kentucky Heritage Council.