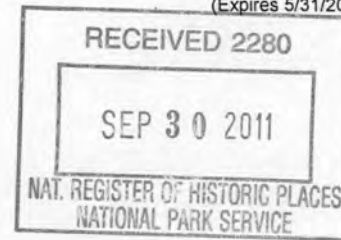


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



799

1. Name of Property

historic name Old Kentucky Home Motel

other names/site number KHC Individual Survey No. NEB-402

2. Location

street & number 414 W. Stephen Foster Avenue

NA

not for publication

city or town Bardstown

NA

vicinity

state Kentucky code KY county Nelson code 179 zip code 40004

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this x nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property x meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide x local

Signature of certifying official/Title Lindy Casebier/Acting SHPO

Date

Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official

Date

Title

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain):

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
		district
		site
		structure
1	0	object
2	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/hotel

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/hotel

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions.)

No style

Materials (Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: CONCRETE

walls: BRICK

roof: ASPHALT

other:

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Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

The Old Kentucky Home Motel (NEB-402) is located at 414 West Stephen Foster Avenue (U. S. Highway 62) in Bardstown, Nelson County, Kentucky. The motel is situated in the Maple Hill neighborhood on 1.62 acres at the northeast corner of the intersection of West Stephen Foster Avenue and Jones Avenue. The property is located west of the historic Court Square in a mixed-use neighborhood that includes single and multi-family residences, schools, and commercial establishments. The Bardstown Local Historic District adjoins the property on the east side. The Old Kentucky Home Motel was built in 1955 for Thomas Ballard and includes the original U-shaped motel building and a neon monument sign at the motel entrance.

Development of the Property and Character of the Setting

Bardstown experienced rapid growth in population in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries due to the presence of the Louisville & Nashville (L & N) Railroad and the expansion of local industries and trades. By 1916 there were no large tracts remaining within the Bardstown city limits that were available for residential and commercial development. In 1916 a group of real estate investors purchased and subdivided a large tract just west of the city limits along the north side of West Stephen Foster Avenue, known at the time as Boston Road. On August 3, 1916, "a plat known as Maple Hill" was recorded that subdivided the tract into 114 lots.ⁱ The City of Bardstown annexed the Maple Hill neighborhood in 1939. The same year, the name of U. S. Highway 62 was changed from Boston Road to Stephen Foster Avenue.

On February 2, 1952, Thomas Ballard purchased Lot 1, Block F, which was the easternmost property in the Maple Hill subdivision.ⁱⁱ On October 12, 1954, Ballard set aside 1.62 acres of Lot 1 "for the purpose of building, maintaining, and operating a motel in the Western suburbs of Bardstown."ⁱⁱⁱ Ballard completed construction of The Old Kentucky Home Motel in June, 1955.^{iv} He chose this setting because of the proximity of the property to St. Joseph Proto-Cathedral (National Register #74000897) on the east and the popular Jones Family Restaurant to the south, across West Stephen Foster Avenue.^v The Old Kentucky Home Motel property extends two hundred and fifty-one feet west along West Stephen Foster Avenue to Jones Avenue; three hundred and eight feet north on Jones Avenue to an alley; two hundred and forty-six feet east along the alley; and two hundred sixty-one feet south to West Stephen Foster Avenue. The property is surrounded on the east by St. Joseph Parish School, on the south by commercial development along West Stephen Foster Avenue, and on the north and west by single and multi-family residences. The motel building is set back one hundred and eighty feet up a grassy slope from West Stephen Foster Avenue. This large area of green space is sheltered by numerous mature canopy trees. The historic view-scape of The Old Kentucky Home Motel has remained consistent since its construction.

Old Kentucky Home Motel Building

The Old Kentucky Home Motel was built in a wide U-shaped plan with parking limited to angled spaces along the front of the building. This arrangement is typical for motels constructed in the early 1950s and it marks a change in design from the earlier and smaller tourist courts.^{vi} The building includes thirty-five units and an office and is one-story, brick veneered, with an integrated gable roof covered in asphalt shingles. Each unit includes an entrance door and one aluminum-frame window with non-functioning shutters. A six-foot wide concrete walkway separates the building from the parking area. The walkway is sheltered by the extension of the roof, which is supported by decorative wrought iron posts.

ⁱ *Nelson County Deed Book* 82 p. 320.

ⁱⁱ *Nelson County Deed Book* 127 p. 226.

ⁱⁱⁱ *Nelson County Deed Book* 129 p. 596.

^{iv} *The Kentucky Standard*, 5 June 1955.

^v Telephone interview with Michael Ballard, 11 April 2011.

^{vi} John A. Jakle, Keith A. Sculle and Jefferson S. Rogers, *The Motel In America* (Baltimore, the Johns Hopkins University Press), 37, 45.

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The central building measures 28' x 181' and includes the motel office. This building is dominated by a central thirty-foot-wide projecting front portico with a pedimented gable, which is supported by four square wood columns. That portico spans the office entrance. The east and west wings each measure eighteen feet wide and extend one hundred and thirty-six feet toward West Stephen Foster Avenue. Each wing originally included windows on their east and west sides. The motel swimming pool and living quarters for the motel manager are located at the rear of the central building. Both of these elements were constructed after 1960. The columned portico, front grassy lawn, and the placement of white-painted metal lawn chairs under shady trees were intended to give a "colonial" look to the motel. This design fit perfectly with the popularity of My Old Kentucky Home as Bardstown's premier tourist attraction.

The Old Kentucky Home Motel retains most of its original architectural elements and is in excellent condition. The windows on the outer sides of each wing have been filled in, but this alteration is not visible from West Stephen Foster Avenue. The front of the building is unchanged since its construction, and the building retains its historic character and integrity.

Old Kentucky Home Motel Sign Contributing Object

The entrance sign for The Old Kentucky Home Motel is typical of motel signs of the late-1940s and 1950's. It is a pole-mounted motel sign is approximately twenty feet high and is set in a 4' x 7' brick monument base. The signage area features a green background with "Old Kentucky Home Motel" at the top in white lettering. The word "Motel" is emphasized in large block letters. At the bottom is "Air Conditioned" in smaller white letters. A large neon arrow between these messages points toward the motel. A reader board has been added under, and separate from, the original signage area. The motel sign and brick monument base are in good condition

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☐ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

TRANSPORTATION

COMMERCE

Period of Significance

1955-1961

Significant Dates

1955

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Period of Significance (justification)

The Old Kentucky Home Motel was built in 1955 for Thomas Ballard and continued to have importance through 1961 and no earlier date can be assigned to end the historic period.

Criteria Considerations NA

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Summary Paragraph

The Old Kentucky Home Motel (NEB-402), constructed in 1955, meets National Register Criterion A and is significant within the historic context of "Automobile Travel and the Growth and Development of Tourism in Central Kentucky, 1955-1961." The development of automobile travel, public highways, and tourism made significant contributions to the economic and social history of Bardstown during this period. The proximity of the St. Joseph Proto-Cathedral, My Old Kentucky Home State Park, and other historic sites in Bardstown made this location an ideal site for a motel. These developments spurred the establishment in the 1950s of new types of lodging that were designed to meet the changing needs of the traveling public. The design of The Old Kentucky Home Motel shows these changes and is typical of 1950s-era motel design.

Introduction

The Old Kentucky Home Motel (NEB-402) is located at 414 West Stephen Foster Avenue (U. S. Highway 62) in Bardstown, Nelson County, Kentucky. Bardstown is located in north central Kentucky in the western Bluegrass Region, about thirty-five miles southeast of Louisville. It is situated near the Beech Fork River, which historically provided access to the Ohio River, and it is bisected by historic highways U. S. 31E and U. S. 62. It is a 4th class city and had a population of 11,700 in 2010. Bardstown was founded in 1780 and has served as the county seat of Nelson County since the founding of the county in 1785. Most of the core area of Bardstown is included in the Bardstown National Register District and there are 246 buildings that contribute to the historic character of the District. The establishment of My Old Kentucky Home (Federal Hill) as a state shrine in 1923, the survival of such a large number of historic buildings, and the preservation of much of Bardstown's historic setting have made the city a popular tourist destination for decades.

Historic Context – Automobile Travel and the Growth and Development of Tourism in Central Kentucky, 1926-1961

Bardstown is located in north central Kentucky in the western Bluegrass Region, about thirty-five miles southeast of Louisville. It is situated near the Beech Fork River, which historically provided access to the Ohio River, and it is bisected by historic highways U. S. 31E and U. S. 62. It is a 4th class city and had a population of 11,700 in 2010. Bardstown was founded in 1780 and has served as the county seat of Nelson County since the founding of the county in 1785. Most of the core area of Bardstown is included in the Bardstown National Register District and there are 246 buildings that contribute to the historic character of the District. The establishment of My Old Kentucky Home (Federal Hill) as a state shrine in 1923, the survival of such a large number of historic buildings, and the preservation of much of Bardstown's historic setting, have made the city a popular tourist destination for decades.

The construction of lodging for tourists was a response to the growth of tourism and the needs of tourists. Tourism is not a twentieth-century phenomenon. In fact, entrepreneurs developed scenic places such as Niagara Falls into national tourist destinations in the early-nineteenth century. In central Kentucky, Mammoth Cave, located on the Louisville and Nashville Road, became the most popular tourist site in the state by the 1830s. Spurred by the celebration of the nation's centennial in 1876, many Americans in the late-nineteenth century took a renewed interest in their history and heritage. One result was the outpouring of hundreds of published county and state histories, atlases, reminiscences, military histories, and other historical works. Another result was the formation of numerous historical societies and heritage organizations, such as the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Mount Vernon Ladies Association, and the Hermitage Ladies Association. The renewed interest in, and remembrance of, American history resulted in the development by 1900 of national heritage tourism sites such as Mount Vernon and The Hermitage. By the early-twentieth century, Americans were eager to visit not only scenic wonders but also places associated with national, state, and local historic persons and events.

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The centennial of the birth of Abraham Lincoln was honored not only by the minting of the Lincoln penny, but also by efforts to develop his birthplace near Hodgenville, Kentucky, as an historic shrine. In 1909 a group of private citizens established the Lincoln Birthplace Memorial at Hodgenville. By 1911 the historic Bardstown & Louisville Turnpike and the Bardstown & Green River Turnpike—linking Louisville and Bardstown with Hodgenville and Mammoth Cave—were renamed the Central Lincoln Road. While most tourists visited these places via rail, advances in automobile technology made it possible for adventurous tourists to travel by auto over the gravel and stone road to Lincoln's birthplace, Mammoth Cave, and other heritage and scenic sites. Local groups in central Kentucky quickly seized the opportunity to take advantage of these new opportunities by promoting road improvements and tourism. On April 29, 1911 the Central Lincoln Road Association was established in Bardstown for the purpose of reconstruction of "this great historic highway," and expressed the hope that travelers would "gladly linger" in Bardstown "since it alone can link the Civil War to the Revolution – the days of Lincoln to the days of Washington."^{vii} The Association's booklet suggested a number of sites in Bardstown that tourists could visit, including St. Joseph Cathedral, the Ben Hardin House, Federal Hill, John Fitch's grave, Lover's Leap, and, finally, the Town Creek gristmill. The booklet reminded tourists that they could drive through a covered bridge as they traveled out of Bardstown to Lincoln's birthplace.

The Central Lincoln Road Association was short-lived and was replaced in 1915 by two ambitious national highway development associations. The Jackson Highway Association conceived of a paved route, which they named the Jackson Highway, which ran over established historic roads from Niagara Falls via Nashville to New Orleans. Branch associations were formed in each state and the Kentucky branch was incorporated in Bardstown on May 28, 1915 by a local group that included the County Judge and a bank director.^{viii} The Kentucky portion, formerly the Central Lincoln Road, was finally paved in 1925^{ix} and was designated U. S. Highway 31-E by 1932. The same Bardstown group formed a local branch of the Dixie Central Highway Association in 1915.^x The proposed Dixie Central Highway ran from the Straits of Mackinac via Louisville to Miami. From Bardstown, the highway traveled east over the old Springfield Turnpike (now U. S. Highway 62). The goals of the local association branch in Bardstown were to aid in the construction of a paved surface, promote roadside beautification, and to assist in "the preservation and development of historic and watering places." The Jackson Highway and the Dixie Central Highway enabled travelers to reach comfortably the growing number of tourist sites in central Kentucky. In 1922 the first tour buses carried tourists on excursions over the new Jackson Highway.^{xi} By 1932, travel by auto and bus had increased sufficiently for *The Kentucky Standard* to run a front-page story touting Bardstown as the "biggest hub of state routes" and exclaiming that "tourists spend their time devouring local historic and scenic treasures." The article concluded by stating "tourists follow highways" and that highways brought "a stream of tourists into Nelson County."^{xii}

The completion of paved highways made possible the development of new tourist destinations in the region. By 1910, Federal Hill, the ancestral home of Judge John Rowan, Sr., had become well known as the place where Stephen Foster wrote "My Old Kentucky Home" and it became known as My Old Kentucky Home. Although not open to the public, Federal Hill was already a popular tourist attraction in Bardstown. In 1920 the state of Kentucky established the Old Kentucky Home Commission and completed the purchase of My Old Kentucky Home in 1922.^{xiii} Officially known as My Old Kentucky Home, the property became the first Kentucky

^{vii} *Central Lincoln Road to the Lincoln Home Park* (Bardstown Commercial Club, 1911)

^{viii} *Nelson County Record of Articles of Incorporation, 1871-1926*, page 374.

^{ix} *The Kentucky Standard*, July 9, 1925.

^x *Nelson County Record of Articles of Incorporation, 1871-1926*, page 376; *Automotive Industries*, Vol. 33, September 9, 1915, page 496.

^{xi} "A New Field for the Motor Bus?" *The Commercial Vehicle*, February 1, 1922, p. 18.

^{xii} *The Kentucky Standard*, June 30, 1932.

^{xiii} *Nelson County Deed Book 88*, page 580; *Nelson County Deed Book 90*, page 269.

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state shrine in 1923. The celebration of this event July 4-5, 1923 was attended by over 15,000 visitors.^{xiv} My Old Kentucky Home quickly became the preeminent tourist attraction in Kentucky and became the first Kentucky state park in 1936. The celebration there of Foster Day, honoring Stephen Foster's birthday, drew huge crowds from all over the region between 1916-1932.^{xv} On June 26, 1959, *The Stephen Foster Story* opened in the newly built outdoor amphitheater on the grounds of My Old Kentucky Home. Over 17,000 visitors, some arriving by tour buses from New York City, attended the opening day parade and festivities. In 1926 the Federal government appropriated \$15,000 for the erection in the Bardstown court square of a monument in Bardstown to steamboat inventor John Fitch. The bronze monument was unveiled in 1927 and also became a major tourist attraction in the region.^{xvi}

Tourists traveling over the new highways to the new tourist destinations in central Kentucky took advantage of a plethora of guidebooks that described road conditions and "must see" historic sites along the way. The 1918 *Automobile Blue Book* described Bardstown as a "quaint old southern town" where the traveler could visit Federal Hill ("Stephen Foster wrote 'My Old Kentucky Home Here in 1852'") and St Joseph Cathedral ("first Catholic church west of the Alleghenies"). The book suggested cheerfully that tourists travel over the covered bridge on their way south from Bardstown to Gethsemane Abbey.^{xvii} A 1926 local guidebook, complete with photographs, suggested that tourists in Bardstown visit not only My Old Kentucky Home but also St. Joseph Cathedral, the covered bridge, and nearby Nazareth College, Gethsemane Abbey, and the Lincoln Home Park Memorial in Hodgenville.^{xviii} In the 1930s *The WPA Guide to Kentucky* added pioneer-era Cox's Station and the Tom Moore distillery in Bardstown to a growing list of tourist destinations.

Still, with all this promotion, tourism in early-twentieth century central Kentucky was far from fully developed. There were few good roads, and the number of tourists was small. Until the 1920s, downtown hotels in Bardstown were the only types of lodging available to meet the needs of the small number of automobile travelers. There was ample parking, tourist sites were few, and, consequently, travelers did not stay in town for extended periods. The two main hotels were the Talbott Hotel and the Old Kentucky Home Hotel. The circa 1795 Talbott Hotel, located on the Court Square, offered a "colonial" ambience for tourists and it was featured in the several issues of the *Automobile Blue Book*.^{xix} In 1938 a new owner capitalized on the desire of tourists to visit Bardstown's historic sites by renaming it the Old Talbott Tavern.^{xx} In 1959 it touted itself as "The Oldest Hotel West of the Alleghenies"^{xxi} and the business continued to thrive as it adapted to the needs of tourists to connect with their heritage. The Old Kentucky Home Hotel was built in 1914 and was located just north of the Court Square, sandwiched between a commercial building and City Hall. It remained popular with tourists for some years, helped, no doubt, by the association of its name with the growing popularity of My Old Kentucky Home. It was torn down in the 1960s.

The development of paved national highways such as the Jackson Highway and the Dixie Central Highway in the 1920s, the establishment of the Federal highway system, and the growth and promotion of now-accessible tourist sites, resulted in a great increase in automobile travel. Tourists desired accommodations that fit their new mode of travel and met their increased desire for new amenities in their lodging. The old downtown hotels were not able to meet these needs and entrepreneurs developed new types of lodging styles and design to attract the mobile tourist.

^{xiv} *The Kentucky Standard*, July 5, 1923; Young E. Allison, *The Old Kentucky Home: Its Song and the Story* (My Old Kentucky Home Commission, 1923)

^{xv} *The Kentucky Standard*, July 8, 1926, June 3, 1932.

^{xvi} *The Kentucky Standard*, May 26, 1927.

^{xvii} *Automobile Blue Book*, 1918.

^{xviii} *Souvenir Edition of Historic Bardstown and My Old Kentucky Home* (Bardstown Chamber of Commerce, 1926)

^{xix} *Automobile Blue Book*, 1918, 1920.

^{xx} *The Kentucky Standard*, March 17, 1938.

^{xxi} *Ibid.*, June 25, 1959.

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Tourists wanted lodgings that they could reach easily by automobile and the core areas of cities and towns lacked easy access, available land for development, and had limited parking facilities. The availability of undeveloped land just outside these areas, and along the new highways, made possible the construction of new types of lodging that were specifically designed for the automobile traveler. There were numerous attractive sites available just outside the core of Bardstown, including the Carden Addition (1911), Cathedral Manor subdivision (1937), Maple Hill Addition (1920s-1930s), Foster Heights (1928), Halstead Addition (1930s), and Beechwold subdivision (1950).

Resources for Tourist Lodging

The earliest lodging design was the cottage court, which was generally a grouping of small, one-story frame units adjacent to a general store or campground. These individual units usually included a kitchenette and bath with parking next to the building.^{xxii} Many of the later cottage courts connected the individual units with wall-to-wall sheltered parking spaces.^{xxiii} The earliest cottage court in the Bardstown area was built in 1937 and was located about three miles north of Bardstown on the Jackson Highway next to what is now known as Olde Delaney's Country Store.^{xxiv} It continued in operation until the 1950s.

The popularity of the cottage court design was supplanted by the development in the 1930s of the tourist court, also referred to as a motor court. The tourist courts "were structured like cottage courts except that room units were totally integrated under single rooflines usually as a single building."^{xxv} The tourist court units were arranged in a row or in an L-shaped building. Most were constructed of concrete block or brick veneer and had gable roofs. The owner or manager lived in an adjoining residence that also served as an office. The area in front of, or surrounded by, the tourist court units was landscaped in grass, flowers, and shrubs to provide an attractive location for the traveler. The popularity of tourist courts lasted well into the 1950's and competed, for a time, with motels. The Wilson Motel was the first tourist court (1934) in Bardstown. It was followed in succession by Baldwin's Tourist Court (1939) on West Stephen Foster Avenue in the Maple Hill neighborhood; Hahn's Tourist Court (c. 1945), located on North Third Street above the railroad in the Halstead Addition; and Irvine's Tourist Court (c. 1945), located across the street from the Wilson Motel.

Tourists continued to desire more accessibility and amenities, and business owners desired more space to accommodate tourists. The result was the development of the modern motel, which offered ample parking, more open space, patios and a large courtyard that often included a swimming pool.^{xxvi} Motels looked more inviting to the traveler than the older tourist courts, and their design in the early 1950s drew upon "colonial" theme popular with tourists. The first motel in Bardstown was the Old Kentucky Home Motel, built in 1955 on West Stephen Foster Avenue, just west of Baldwin's Tourist Court. Its one-story, brick-veneered U-shaped building faced a spacious lawn, included a swimming pool in the rear, and provided 35 units with ample parking for its guests. The Bardstown-Parkview Motel was constructed in 1959 on East Stephen Foster Avenue, directly across from My Old Kentucky Home in the Beechwold subdivision. It was constructed as a stone-veneered one-story L-shaped motel and in 1960 a matching two-story building was constructed just east of the original unit. Both the Old Kentucky Home Motel and the Bardstown-Parkview Motel feature projecting gabled porticos that are supported by wood columns. Motels were more attractive to tourists because they offered more room space and parking, green space, and central air conditioning.

^{xxii} Jakle, Sculle, and Rogers, *The Motel in America* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1996), 41.

^{xxiii} Ibid, 43.

^{xxiv} *The Kentucky Standard*, 12 August 1937; WPA photo, 1937.

^{xxv} *The Motel in America*, 43.

^{xxvi} Ibid, 45.

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The tourist courts and motels marketed their locations and amenities to tourists in a variety of ways, including color postcards, newspaper advertising, membership in lodging associations, advertisements in highway maps, and signage in front of their businesses. Their competition for the national and regional tourist dollar directly influenced their building design and the emphasis on the amenities that they provided. As lodging design changed from L-shaped tourist courts to bi-level motels, so did amenities change from steam heat and small rooms to central air and heat, more parking, and larger rooms with better furnishings.

Evaluation of the historic significance of Old Kentucky Home Motel within the context Automobile Travel and the Growth and Development of Tourism in Central Kentucky, 1926-1961

The Old Kentucky Home Motel is significant within its historic context because its site, setting, and building design indicate changes that have occurred in the lodging industry during the 1940s-1950s. The business continued to be locally significant through the end of the period of significance in 1961. The development of public highways and the increase in tourism created new opportunities for persons seeking to establish new businesses. In 1955, Thomas Ballard, who was a Bardstown businessman and contractor, constructed a motel in the Maple Hill neighborhood because the property was only one block west of the St. Joseph Proto-Cathedral and it was across the street from a popular family restaurant.^{xxvii} His choice of name for his motel was inspired by the popularity of My Old Kentucky Home as the region's premier tourist attraction.

Ballard and his partner, Tyler Head, built the motel only after first discussing the project with A. Cameron Wilson, owner of The Wilson Motel, to obtain his approval. Wilson, Ballard, and Head agreed that the construction of a modern motel on the west side of Bardstown would not negatively impact the profitability of The Wilson Motel.^{xxviii} The Old Kentucky Home Motel, completed in 1955, was the first motel constructed in Bardstown. Its plan was typical for motels built during this period – a one-story, brick-veneered, U-shaped building with parking and a large grassy area in front and a swimming pool in the rear.^{xxix} The projecting gabled front portico, supported by four columns, fit well with the motel name and guests' expectations of visiting My Old Kentucky Home and other historic buildings in the city. Guest rooms were air-conditioned and included televisions. The motel's large neon sign, located just off the U. S. Highway 62 right-of-way, could not be missed and fit in well with the setting of the new large motel. The entire design responded to the fact that tourists wanted more space, accessibility, and amenities. The motel was easily accessible from the highway, and it included thirty-five spacious air-conditioned rooms, a swimming pool, ample parking in front of the building, and a large pleasant shady area in which to sit and relax.

Evaluation of the Integrity of Old Kentucky Home Motel's Significance Location and Setting

The Old Kentucky Home Motel retains a high degree of integrity of location and setting. The motel, like the older Wilson's Tourist Court (1934) and Baldwin's Tourist Court (1939), was just outside the city limits on the old Dixie Central Highway, but near enough to major tourist attractions, such as the Cathedral, to provide convenient accommodations for tourists. The Maple Hill subdivision lot on which it is situated retains its original boundaries. The neon sign at the entrance and the large grassy area that extends from the highway up the hill to the front of the building remains unaltered. The U-shaped entrance and parking in front of the building the same. The motel is still surrounded by the same type of mixed-use buildings – residences, commercial establishments, and schools. Essentially, the setting of the property remains the same as when it was built in 1955.

Design

^{xxvii} Telephone interview with Michael Ballard, 11 April 2011.

^{xxviii} Ibid.

^{xxix} Jakle, Sculle, and Rogers, *The Motel in America* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1996), 45.

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The motel retains a high degree of integrity of design. It was designed in 1955 to provide more parking and more spacious rooms for guests, and it possesses motel design typical for the 1950s. Although the windows of the outer walls of the two wings have been filled in, the exterior design viewed from the front, when compared with vintage postcard images, has remained virtually unchanged.^{xxx}

Materials and Workmanship

The motel retains a high degree of workmanship and original materials. The building is a good example of the motel styles popular in the 1950s and has been well maintained. The neon sign is in good condition and rests on its original brick monument base.

Association

The motel is still in operation under the same name and retains a high degree of integrity of association with transportation and the development of public highways and tourism. It was built at this location to attract tourists traveling to Bardstown to visit the St. Joseph Proto-Cathedral. Its location on U. S. Highway 62, just a short distance from downtown and My Old Kentucky Home, made it a choice location for tourist lodging.

Feeling

The location, building design, open space, shady trees, and neon sign convey a strong sense of integrity of feeling. The setting of the immediate area has not changed appreciably since 1955 and the motel property imparts a strong feeling of continuity and historic character. It looks much like it did when it was built in 1955.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

Primary Sources

Telephone interview with Michael Ballard, 11 April 2011 (Joint City-County Planning Commission of Nelson County office).

Oral Interview with Marilyn K. Dick, 16 March 2011, Bardstown (Joint City-County Planning Commission of Nelson County office).

Kentucky Standard, 12 August 1937.

Kentucky Standard, 5 June 1955.

Kentucky Standard, 18 June 1959.

Kentucky Standard, 25 June 1959.

Nelson County Records (deeds, plats, mortgages), Nelson County Clerk's Office.

USGS Topo Map, Bardstown Quadrangle, 1953.

USGS Topo Map, Bardstown Quadrangle, 1987.

^{xxx} Color postcard, Old Kentucky Home Motel, c. 1958.

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Aerial Map of Bardstown, 1969.

Central Lincoln Road to the Lincoln Home Park (Bardstown Commercial Club, 1911).

Record of Articles of Incorporation, 1871-1926 (Nelson County Clerk's Office).

Automotive Industries, Vol. 33, September 9, 1915, page 496.

The Commercial Vehicle, February 1, 1922, page 18.

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Federal Writers' Project, *The WPA Guide to Kentucky*.

Standard Oil Company, "1934 Road Map, Kentucky and Tennessee."

Kentucky Progress Commission, *Kentucky Highways at a Glance* (Frankfort, 1935).

"Kentucky Highways," 1942, Kentucky State Highway Department.

Secondary Sources

Young E. Allison, *The Old Kentucky Home: Its Song and the Story* (My Old Kentucky Home Commission, 1923).

Bardstown Chamber of Commerce, *Souvenir Edition of Historic Bardstown and My Old Kentucky Home* (n.d.).

Dixie Hibbs, *Bardstown Hospitality, History, and Bourbon* (Arcadia Publishing, 2002).

Jakle, Sculle, and Rogers, *The Motel in America* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1996).

Sarah B. Smith, *Historic Nelson County, Its Towns and People* (Bardstown, 1983).

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
☐ previously listed in the National Register
☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

☒ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☒ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other

Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

NEB-402

Old Kentucky Home Motel
Name of Property

Nelson County, KY
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.62 acres

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

Bardstown Quad

UTM Coordinate Values Calculated via GIS

UTM Coordinate Values expressed according to 1927 NAD

1	16	634 259	4185 747	3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2				4			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Starting at the intersection of Jones Ave. and U. S. Hwy. #62 on the North side of said Hwy. #62 and the East side of Jones Avenue; thence South 83 degrees 30 minutes East 250 feet to the Southwest corner of St. Joseph's School property; thence with the West line of said school property North 17 degrees 15 minutes East 264.2 feet to an iron stake; thence North 72 degrees 45 minutes West 246 feet to the East side of Jones Avenue to an iron stake; thence South 17 degrees 15 minutes West 311.6 feet to the point of beginning. (Nelson County Deed Book 129, pp. 596-597).

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary encloses all of the original property that contributed to the historic character of the Old Kentucky Home Motel.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Pen Bogert
organization Joint City-County Planning Commission of Nelson Co. date 25 April 2011
street & number One Court Square telephone 502-348-1805
city or town Bardstown state KY zip code 40004
e-mail pbogert@bardstowncable.net

Photographs:

Photo Log

Name of Property:	Old Kentucky Home Motel (NEB-403)
City or Vicinity:	Bardstown
County:	Nelson County
State:	KY
Name of Photographer:	Pen Bogert
Date of Photographs:	April 13, 2011
Location of Original Digital Files:	Kentucky Heritage Council 300 Washington St. Frankfort, KY 40601
Number of Photographs	10

Old Kentucky Home Motel
Name of Property

Nelson County, KY
County and State

Photo #	Description and Camera Direction
0001	Motel sign, facing west.
0002	Entrance and greenspace, facing south.
0003	Entrance and greenspace, facing north.
0004	South façade, facing north.
0005	West wing, east façade, facing west.
0006	West wing, south façade, facing north.
0007	West wing, west façade (left) and south elevation (right), facing northeast.
0008	East wing, west façade, facing east.
0009	East wing, south façade (left) and east elevation (right), facing northwest.
0010	Central building, north façade, facing southeast.

Property Owner:

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name JHP, LLC

street & number 414 W. Stephen Foster Ave.

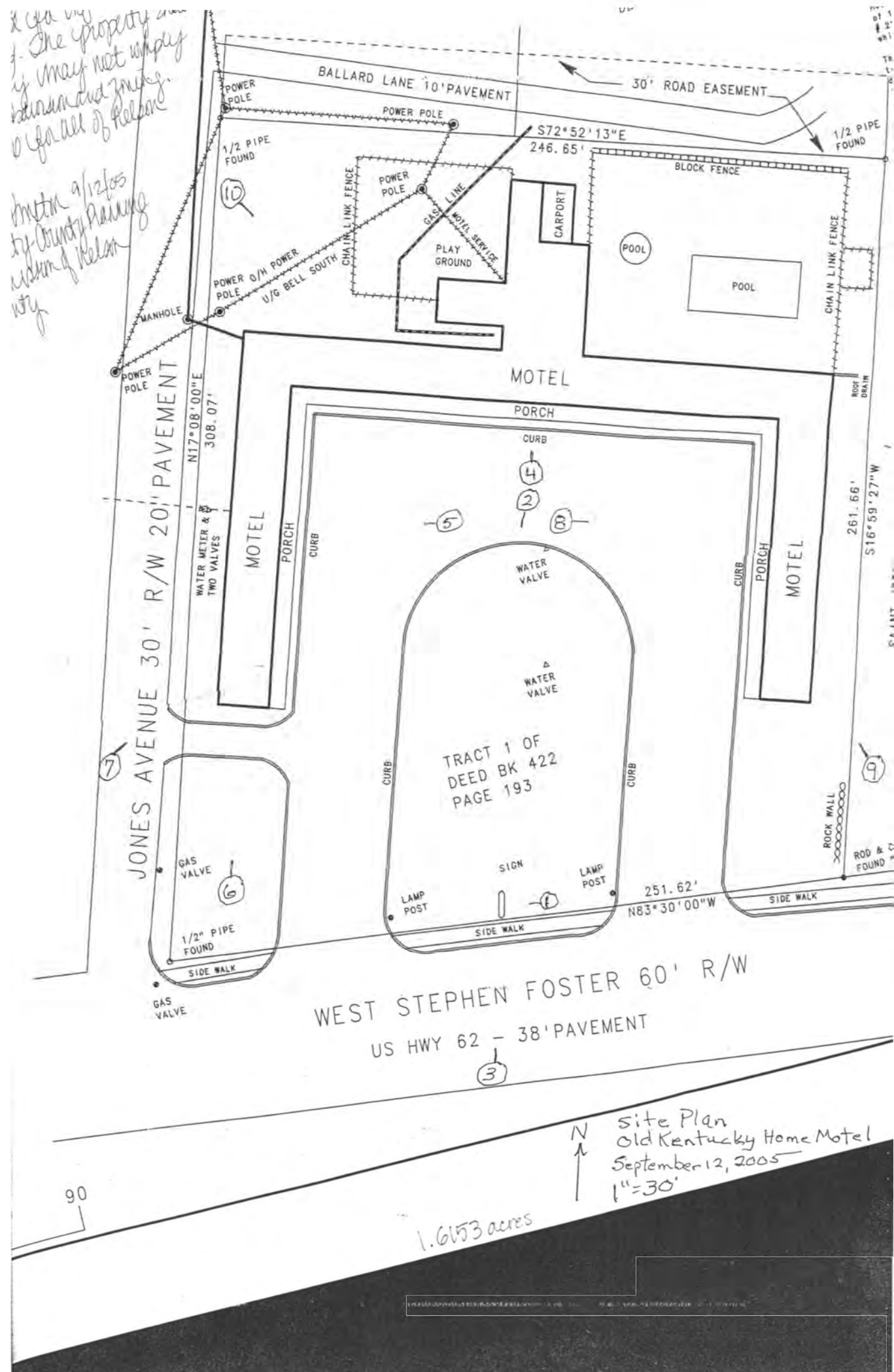
telephone 502-349-5979

city or town Bardstown

state KY

zip code 40004

& for my
 of the property
 is may not imply
 business and zoning
 for all of Nelson
 dated 9/12/05
 by County Planning
 Nelson
 city



Site Plan
 Old Kentucky Home Motel
 September 12, 2005
 1"=30'

1.6153 acres

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

Old Kentucky Home Motel
Name of Property
Nelson County, KY
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Historic Images



Postcard view, facing north (late 1950's).

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Old Kentucky Home Motel
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: KENTUCKY, Nelson

DATE RECEIVED: 9/30/11 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 10/26/11
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 11/10/11 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 11/15/11
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 11000799

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 11-10-11 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

OLD KENTUCKY HOME
MOTEL
AIR CONDITIONED

WEEKLY RATES POOL
MICRO FRIDGE CABLE
HIGH SPEED INTERNET















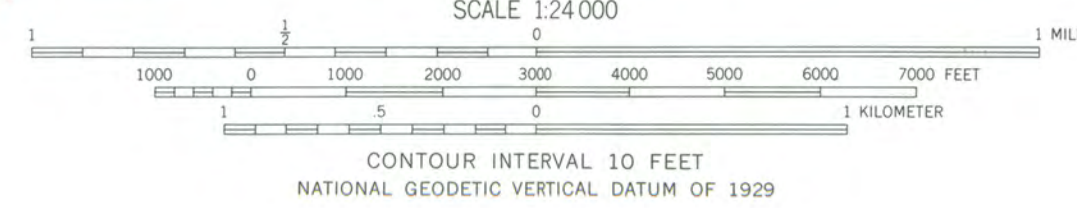








There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map



Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled in cooperation with State of Kentucky agencies from aerial photographs taken 1984 and other sources. Contours adjusted adjacent to certain photorevised hydrographic features. This information not field checked. Map edited 1987. Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas

BARDSTOWN, KY.
SW/4 BARDSTOWN 15' QUADRANGLE
37085-G4-TF-024

1967
PHOTOREVISED 1987
DMA 3959 IV SW-SERIES V853

CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT REPORT FORM
REVIEW of NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION by LOCAL AUTHORITY

(Instructions in parentheses and italics. Print or type your responses. Fuller instructions on additional sheet.)

Name of Certified Local Government City of Bardstown

Name of Property being considered Old Kentucky Home Motel

INITIATION *(enter one date only on a line below, describing the action on the nomination)*

- ☒ nomination submitted by CLG to State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). SHPO is asked by CLG to review nomination as soon as possible.
- ☐ SHPO submits nomination to CLG for review. CLG has 60 days to review nomination and return this report form to SHPO.

REVIEW BASIS *(checkmark at least one line of Resource Type/Criterion; write the name of corresponding Commission member on one of the following three lines)*

Resource Type	Criterion Selected on nomination form
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historical	National Register Criterion A or B
<input type="checkbox"/> Architectural	National Register Criterion C
<input type="checkbox"/> Archeological	National Register Criterion D

Name of Commission Member Representing Significance Area

Don Parrish Historian (when property meets Criterion A or B)

_____ Architectural Historian/Architect (for Criterion C)

_____ Archeologist (when property meets Criterion D)

RECOMMENDATION *(Check mark one of the four blanks below, sign, and enter date)*

- ☒ Commission Recommends Approval
- ☐ Commission Recommends Disapproval
- ☐ Commission Recommends Approval, Report Attached
- ☐ Commission Recommends Disapproval, Report Attached

8-8-11 Don Parrish
Date Commissioner's Signature

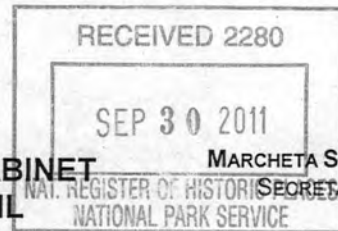
- (Check Mark one of the two blanks below, sign, and enter date)*
- ☒ Chief Elected Official Recommends Approval
- ☐ Chief Elected Official Recommends Disapproval

8-23-11 William S. Seckley, Mayor
Date Official's Signature/Title



STEVEN L. BESHEAR
GOVERNOR

**TOURISM, ARTS AND HERITAGE CABINET
KENTUCKY HERITAGE COUNCIL**



THE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
300 WASHINGTON STREET
FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40601
PHONE (502) 564-7005
FAX (502) 564-5820
www.heritage.ky.gov

MARK DENNEN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

September 23, 2011

Ms. Carol Shull, Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service 2280
National Register of Historic Places
1201 "I" (Eye) Street, NW 8th Floor
Washington DC 20005

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed are nominations approved at the September 6, 2011 Review Board meeting. We are submitting them for listing in the National Register:

Murray Woman's Club Clubhouse, Calloway County, Kentucky
LaSalette Academy, Kenton County, Kentucky
London Downtown Historic District, Laurel County, Kentucky
Livingston County Courthouse, Livingston County, Kentucky
North Main Street Historic District, Mercer County, Kentucky
Lexington and Cane Run Historic District, Mercer County, Kentucky
Baldwin's Tourist Court, Nelson County, Kentucky
Kurtz Restaurant/Bardstown-Parkview Motel-Office, Nelson County, Kentucky
Old Kentucky Home Motel, Nelson County, Kentucky
Wilson Motel, Nelson County, Kentucky
Guthrie Historic District, Todd County, Kentucky
Hardcastle Store, Warren County, Kentucky
Springfield Main Street District, Washington County, Kentucky

We appreciate your consideration of these nominations.

Sincerely,

Lindy Casebier, SHPO and
Executive Director
Kentucky Heritage Council