

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

### National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

#### 1. Name of Property

historic name Brown, Mason, House

other names/site number Blue Wing Landing

#### 2. Location

street & number 1/2 Mile east of end of Brown's Bottom Road  N/A  not for publication

city or town Gratz  vicinity

state Kentucky code KY county Owen code 187 zip code 40327

#### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

*[Signature]*  
Signature of certifying official/Title

3-9-98  
Date

State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register  
 See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

*[Signature]*  
Patrick Anderson

Date of Action

4/27/98

Mason Brown House

Owen County, Kentucky

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	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

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic-single dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic-single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Gothic Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Limestone

walls Wood/tongue and groove  
weatherboard

roof Tin

other Wood

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Mason Brown House  
Owen County, Kentucky

### Description

The Mason Brown House (Q<sup>N</sup>-21) is located at Blue Wing Landing on the Kentucky River, off Brown's Bottom Road, near Gratz Owen County, Kentucky and dates to about 1856. Situated in a very remote river bottom, the house is surrounded by hay fields, cattle pastures, and steep, wooded hills and bluffs that comprise the Lower Kentucky River Valley. Large tobacco barns are found along the bottom and the nearest dwelling, also constructed by the Brown family, a half mile distant.

The house is a 2 ½ story balloon frame structure. The main portion of the house measures 46' x 32'. Two small rooms, each 8' x 10' project from the rear of the house and are connected by a 10' x 12' porch. The house is sited on a level river bottom facing the Kentucky River and fronted by a large gable which frames the portico and dressed limestone porch. The scroll cut front door is surrounded by Greek Revival style side and transom lights; 2 sets of double windows face the front and all windows are crowned by prominent hood molds. The roof is steeply pitched, originally shingled but later covered over with metal. There are four brick interior end chimneys. Pendants with finials atop adorn the gable ends. The deeply scrolled bargeboards are cut from large planks of yellow poplar.

The center hall (10' by 32') and 4 principal downstairs rooms (16' x 18' each) rise 12 feet to their ceilings, and have 12 inch baseboards. The mantels, casings, doors and staircase of pine and poplar are all substantial but plain. The upstairs contains a hall and two bedrooms. Four smaller attic rooms have been converted to modern uses.

Until 1997, there was no real kitchen in the house and no bathroom or running water. Cooking was originally done in a cabin that has been dated to 1790-1810 by log house author Charles McRaven. Later tenants of the house, dating back to 1936, indicated that the northwest room, once covered with many layers of linoleum and wallpaper, was used as a kitchen-dining room. Cooking was done on a wood stove and dishes were washed in pans in a small room next to the rear porch. A nearby ever-running spring (rare for this area) supplied water. Also of interest near the house is an Indian mound.

The exterior of this house retains its original appearance without alteration; the interior appointments have nearly all been preserved.

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.)

- Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
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.
Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
removed from its original location.
a birthplace or grave.
a cemetery.
a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
a commemorative property.
less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Politics and government, law

Architecture

Period of Significance

1856 - 1890

Significant Dates

ca. 1856 (date built)

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Brown, Mason

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Cook, Nathaniel Center (att.)

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 #

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other

Name of repository:

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

Mason Brown House  
Owen County, Kentucky

### Statement of Significance

The Mason Brown House at Blue Wing Landing on Brown's Bottom Road, Gratz, Kentucky meets National Register Criteria B and C. It is significant within the historic context of the *Steamboat Era of the Lower Kentucky River* which lasted from 1820 when steam powered paddlewheel boats became a dominant mode of transportation until 1900 when gas powered boats appeared. It is significant through association with Mason Brown, a prominent Kentucky politician, judge, and owner of Liberty Hall at Frankfort. The design of the Mason Brown House is significant and is attributed to noted architect Nathaniel Center Cook. The house was built in the Gothic Revival style in about 1856, at the same time that the architect designed the nearby Owen County Courthouse in the Greek Revival style. Situated along the banks of the Kentucky River on a large tract that was owned by Kentucky's first U.S. Senator John Brown and his descendants, the house was used by the Browns as a country estate and site of a large apple and peach plantation. It is one of the few remaining Lower Kentucky River plantation houses. On a state level, recognition of its importance is signified by designation as a Kentucky Landmark by the SHPO.

### Historic Context: The Brown Family

Few families of the 19<sup>th</sup> century rivaled that of the Brown's of Virginia, Kentucky, Missouri and Louisiana. The first American member of the family was The Reverend John Brown, an Irishman of Scottish descent. Educated at the College of New Jersey (later Princeton University), he was sent as a missionary to the Valley of Virginia, where he organized Liberty Hall (later Washington & Lee University) and raised his 11 children with his Irish wife Margaret Preston. Included in this well educated family were James Brown, first Secretary of State of Kentucky and later United States Senator for Louisiana and Minister to France, and Samuel and Preston Brown, Kentucky physicians.

Senator John Brown, Jr. who acquired the land where the Mason Brown House stands, was also educated at the College of New Jersey as well as the College of William and Mary where he studied under Edmund Randolph, George Wythe, and Thomas Jefferson. Brown was one of only a few Americans to serve in the Continental Congress (1787-1788), United States House of Representatives (1789-1792), and the United States Senate (1792-1805), twice serving as president pro tempore of the Senate.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

Mason Brown House  
Owen County, Kentucky

During extended stays in Philadelphia, Brown lodged at the same hotel as Jefferson and many other notables, forming lifelong friendships. Indeed, Jefferson submitted architectural plans for Brown's home, Liberty Hall (which arrived too late to be implemented in the 1796 construction). Brown's wife Margaretta Mason of New York was the daughter of a Presbyterian minister and a woman of letters and great refinement and many of her possessions are preserved at Liberty Hall.

Besides his legacy of government and community service, Senator Brown's architectural gem, Liberty Hall, has been preserved as a house museum. Portraits of Brown by renowned artist Matthew H. Jouett and John Trumbull, as well as fine furniture, mementos, and correspondence are preserved in this, one of Kentucky's most famous and historic homes.

Mason Brown was born in Philadelphia while his father was a United States Senator living in that city. Raised at his parent's home at Liberty Hall, he graduated from Yale University, then studied law. Brown co-edited a digest of the statute laws of Kentucky in 1834, served as a circuit court judge for ten years and Kentucky Secretary of State from 1855-1859. Dedicated to the public interest of Frankfort, he assisted in the creation of the Frankfort Cemetery in 1844, modeled after the new type of landscaped and planned cemetery. Brown later led the successful effort in the reinterment of Daniel Boone and his wife in the cemetery. By his first wife, Judith A. Bledsoe (the daughter of a Kentucky U.S. Senator and related by marriage to the Gist, Hart, Gratz and Clay families), Brown had one son, Benjamin Gratz Brown, later Governor of Missouri, United States Senator, and 1876 Democratic Vice Presidential candidate. After her death, Brown married Mary Yoder of Spencer County, Kentucky and they had six children. His three sons were educated at Centre College and his daughters assumed prominent social roles and assisted in maintaining the family homes in Frankfort.

Orlando Brown, Mason Brown's brother, graduated from Princeton and became editor of the Frankfort Commonwealth, bringing this newspaper to prominence in Kentucky. Like his brother and uncle, he served as Secretary of State as well as United States Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

The Brown Family influence was widespread along the Lower Kentucky River in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Senator John Brown was a land speculator and owned several thousand acres in the looping Kentucky River horseshoe bends. His son, Mason built the subject house and began converting the farm lands from corn and subsistence farming to a plantation business of apple and peach orchards. Senator Brown's other son, Orlando, developed the Sulphur Spa at nearby Clay Lick (now Gratz) and built several houses (cf. Lake's 1883

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4

Mason Brown House  
Owen County, Kentucky

Atlas). The Browns platted the town of Gratz in 1844 and named it for Mason Brown's oldest son, B. Gratz Brown.

The house at Blue Wing Landing was principally used as a country estate by the Brown family in the 1850s and 1860s. The trip by Kentucky River steamboat from Mason Brown's home, Liberty Hall, at Frankfort was an easy one, especially after a series of locks and dams were completed in 1842. Kentucky politicians and guests were entertained and friends and relatives from Louisiana and the Deep South came to this area in the summer.

Knox Brown, Mason's youngest son, took over the plantation after his father's death in 1869 and moved there, married, and raised his family. He developed the orchards and at least 13 nearby tenant cabins. In 1906, he incorporated the business as The Kentucky River Fruit Company. Produce was shipped via steamboat to Louisville both for the fresh market and for distillation into various brandies. The orchards were the largest in the state but gradually became unprofitable (Johnson article in Owen News-Herald). By the time of World War I, the plantation had failed and Knox and his wife moved to her family's farm in Spencer County, Kentucky. Thereafter, the farm was always sharecropped in tobacco and corn and the house and cabins occupied by numerous tenant families.

### *The Steamboat Era of the Lower Kentucky River (1820-1900)*

Thomas D. Clark's, Rivers of America series book, The Kentucky (1942) notes that, "From the beginning the Kentucky River was a part of the romantic steamboat drama of America. A new day had come in the Kentucky's rollicking history. Steamboats were marked improvement over the clumsy rafts which warped their way through the narrows and over the shoals to the Ohio. Both distance and time were shortened. Puffing little Kentucky River steamboats could make the run down to the great Louisiana market in twelve days if wood and tail winds held out. Coming back the craft required thirty-six days, a good head of steam, and considerable luck before they rounded to at Frankfort." (p. 73)

The Brown family's importance in the Lower Kentucky River's economic and social fortunes nearly paralleled the rise and fall of the significance of the inland river steamboat on the Kentucky River. The steamboat era extended from 1816 until the 1930's, although the heyday stretched from 1820 till 1860. The combination of the Civil War and the rise of the railroads drastically curtailed steamboat traffic. A steamboat era planter's economic fortunes were closely tied to his proximity to the river, his landholdings, and his political, educational, social, and religious connections. These factors all favored the Browns, with

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 5

Mason Brown House  
Owen County, Kentucky

their principal seat at Liberty Hall in Frankfort and their lower river holdings in the Brown's Bottom and Gratz areas, including their country estate, the Mason Brown House.

Until after the Civil War, all but a few roads in Kentucky were deplorable and became impassable at times; however, the Kentucky River offered direct access via commodious steamboat to Louisville, Cincinnati, Pittsburgh and New Orleans. (Clark, Chapter 5)

Burley tobacco, especially, was best transported by water, as the heavy hogsheads in which it was prized weighed many tons. Federal census reports show that production of tobacco rose from 746,871 pounds in 1849-1852 to 2,153,307 pounds a decade later and nearly all of it moved via steamboat. (Houchens, p. 25)

From the north and the middle forks of the Kentucky River to the mouth at Carrollton, the river meanders for 250 miles through some of Kentucky's richest farm land. By 1820 freight service was being offered to New Orleans and by 1825 steamboats were supreme although there were about 10 more years of keelboat and barge traffic (Coleman, p. 16). Planters and manufactures shipped via the river lumber, hemp rope, yarn, bagging, wheat, flour, corn, grain, meat, whiskey, beer, cider, port, and even slaves. Shaker colony seeds, brooms, and produce were shipped from the Pleasant Hill Colony. Towns sprang up along the Kentucky complete with steamboat warehouses, general stores, coal yards, taverns, hotels, post offices and mills. By 1835 almost daily service by steamboats was offered from Frankfort to Louisville and back. A planter could board a fine packet at Frankfort such as the *Seagull* or the *Blue Wing* with their upper sleeping cabins and graceful lines and be insured of a good night's rest, a hearty supper and breakfast, and arrival at Louisville or Cincinnati early enough the next morning to transact business, with a charge for passengers, cabin, and meals at \$3.00 per person. Children, servants, and deck passengers were half price. (Coleman, p. 20)

In 1842, completion of the first five locks made slack water steamboating profitable, and the boats were numerous, larger and more luxurious. In 1846, the Frankfort Commonwealth described the *Blue Wing* as the, "most complete boat of her class afloat and a beautiful specimen of naval architecture." (Coleman, p. 24)

Clark noted that,

The *Blue Wing I, II, and III* were to become vital parts of Kentucky's steamboat history. *Blue Wing II* for years almost rivaled the beloved Congressman Clay for a place in the state's affection. It was a handsome boat, built especially for the Kentucky trade. Notices of its maiden run proudly announced that it was 152.5 feet long with 27-foot beam and a 5-foot hold. Its



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 6

Mason Brown House  
Owen County, Kentucky

boilers were 42 inches in diameter and 22 feet long, and the cylinders of the engine were 17 inches in diameter and it had a 7-foot stroke. William French designed and built the hull, and Curry and Miller built the engines. The *Blue Wing's* cabins and decks were so elaborate that it looked like a birthday cake made by a baker who was hopelessly infatuated with the idea of using a confectioner's gun. The scrollwork and gingerbread were the last word in the carpenter's gaudy art. The makers had set themselves successfully to the task of creating a veritable floating valentine." (p. 81)

The spas such as Drennon's (near Blue Wing Landing) were much patronized by wealthy cotton and sugar-cane planters of the South who came north to escape the dreaded yellow fever and insufferable heat of the cities. Many of the wealthier and more aristocratic southerners transported their own private coaches and extensive wardrobes for extended summer visits along the Kentucky River. Visitors at Liberty Hall included Lafayette (1825), and Madison, Monroe, Jackson and Taylor (all for breakfast on June 29, 1819) During the 1840s and 1850s the Brown family entertained lavishly and extensively at Liberty Hall and later at their country estate at Blue Wing Landing. Passengers of the *Blue Wing*, owned by John Watson and Company of Frankfort (related by marriage to the Browns) included such notables as Henry Clay, John Hunt Morgan, Robert J. Breckenridge, Cassius M. Clay, John J. Crittenden, and John C. Breckenridge. The parties at country estates, spas, and mineral springs included politicians, merchants, dandies, fine ladies, opera stars, planters, artists, and business and professional men. The famous Kentucky beauty Sally Ward, the horse painter Edward Troye, and sculptor Joel T. Hart frequented the spas along the lower river.

This elegant life dissipated after the Civil War when the locks on the Kentucky River fell into disrepair and the railroads opened up other routes. It was not until the late 1890s that steamboats (much smaller than the earlier ones) became popular again on the river. These later vessels only transported local passengers, whiskey, hemp, lumber, grain and livestock.

By 1880, coal burning steamboats replaced the wood burners and by 1900 gas boats were appearing, later to be succeeded by diesel packet boats and tow boats.

While this era was certainly romantic, steamboats were money makers and vital cogs in the antebellum cotton economy. Profits derived from down-river sales kept the Kentucky economy afloat. The steamboat era on the Kentucky River as well as the Brown family influence (once a large family, there are few descendants) are long gone but their legacy, in part, remains in their homes.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 7

Mason Brown House  
Owen County, Kentucky

## *Architecture in the Lower Kentucky River Valley During the Steamboat Era*

Owen County, where the Mason Brown House is located, lies in a rugged area of the Outer Bluegrass along the Kentucky River. This 350 square mile county was described by Alfred Cobb in his autobiographical temperance story, Liffy Leman, as a wilderness. He mentions a "hewed log house" with the mortar showing, which was considered a better kind of cabin than those built by settlers. In 1840-42, he described Owenton, the county seat, as a place of about 40 or 50 homes, mostly standing with their gable ends next to the street. (Houchens, p. 26)

On the other hand, the Kentucky River corridor contained more stylish houses. Inverness House, (Thomas Berryman, owner), a large Federal-style brick house, was built about 1849 near present day Perry Park, several miles down stream from the Mason Brown House, and was the site of gala affairs and parties prior to the Civil War. Nearby, the Perry family's extensive holdings included Wildwood built in the 1830s and Glenwood Hall, built prior to the Civil War. Across the river, Drennon Springs supported a popular spa with a large hotel (built 1849) and later the Western Military Institute. Travel to and from these locations was almost exclusively by steamboat. (Houchens, p. 25).

As the best highway in the Bluegrass (direct access to the South via Louisville and North via Cincinnati and canals and lake boats to New York and Philadelphia), the lock-and-dam-improved Kentucky River in the 1840s was a desirable transportation corridor by which to live. The rich, wide bottoms of the Lower River made farming profitable. Steamboat landings, both private and public, were found every few miles along the river. The large old homes were usually in a bottomland not far from the river. The Gothic Revival style fit the romantic and fashionable image of steamboat travel by wealthy Southerners who lingered at the tasteful estates and popular resorts along the River. However, the Gothic style also suited literary and religious sensibilities such as Mason Brown's. Stylistically, the Gothic Revival houses in the Lower Kentucky River Valley seldom were built with arched windows, fancy chimneys, or board and batten siding as prescribed by Downing and Davis, but rather, were simply designed and constructed with a large gable and usually with some form of decorative bargeboards. (Newcomb, p. 155) Skilled carpenters from steamboat yards developed the ornate scrollworking affixed to steamboats and transposed this form to houses built along the river.

When Mason Brown decided to build a country home on family property, this writer believes he retained Nathaniel Center Cook (ca 1814-1868) to design a Gothic

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 8

Mason Brown House  
Owen County, Kentucky

Revival house. The civic-minded Brown had worked on many committees in Frankfort constructing government and community buildings, including the Cook-designed 1849-1850 Kentucky Arsenal and the 1849 Good Shepherd Church, both in the Gothic Revival style (The Kentucky Encyclopedia, p. 29).

This writer believes that as a large landowner in Owen County with considerable architectural experience, Brown probably secured for Cook the 1856 design of the Owen County Courthouse (entered in the National Registry in 1856). This versatile architect, trained in New Orleans and Memphis, designed in both the Greek and Gothic Revival styles. His color rendering for the proposed courthouse appears in the Fall 1987 edition of the Southern Quarterly.

Significantly, the Mason Brown House was constructed from the architect's site plans unlike the numerous homes built by itinerant carpenters in vernacular modes. Materials such as lumber, brick, and glass were assembled elsewhere and delivered to the site via steamboat. All of the windows, casings, doors and trim are uniform sizes and nearly interchangeable, and were probably assembled in a city such as Cincinnati. In fact, all of the door hinges and hardware were made by Miles Greenwood and Company of Cincinnati, a very large mid century iron works and manufactory located on the Canal in Cincinnati.

This writer has found few Gothic Revival style houses of the caliber of the Mason Brown House in the region. Several homes in Owen and Henry Counties still retain several sections of decorative bargeboard, although generally much smaller than that of the Brown House. Others are set on very low fieldstone foundations unlike the 2 ½-foot-high chiseled limestone of the Brown House, and none have the formal dressed stone steps and porch of the Brown House. Windows in most regional houses of this style tend to be smaller and narrower than the six-over-six sash windows in this house. Good examples of Gothic Revival survive in brick but usually are of the three-gable type.

The beveled poplar tongue and groove siding of the house, large scale bargeboards, double windows and hood molds are not seen locally. Architectural historian William B. Scott, Jr. claims this is a specialty of Cook-designed wooden buildings.

Mason-Brown House  
Name of Property

Owen County, Kentucky  
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 235

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

3	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title William H. Chatfield  
organization N/A date November 25, 1997  
street & number 7 West Seventh Street telephone 513-621-5428  
city or town Cincinnati, state Ohio zip code 45202

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

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

name William H. Chatfield and Anne W. Chatfield  
street & number 7 W. Seventh Street telephone 513-621-5428  
city or town Cincinnati, state Ohio zip code 45202

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9, 10 Page 9

Mason Brown House  
Owen County, Kentucky

### Bibliography

- Clark, Thomas D., The Kentucky, New York: Farrar & Rinehart, 1942
- Cobb, Alfred, Liffy Leman or Thirty Years in the Wilderness, Owenton, Kentucky, 1890.
- Coleman, J. Winston, Jr. Steamboats on the Kentucky River, Lexington: Winburn Press, 1960
- Hardin, Bayless, The Brown Family of Liberty Hall, Louisville: Filson Club Historical Quarterly, 1981
- Houchens, Mariam Sidebottom, History of Owen County, Kentucky, Louisville: The Standard Printing Company, 1976
- Johnson, Charles, article in Owen News-Herald, July 23, 1964.
- Lake's Atlas, Owen County, Kentucky, 1883
- Liberty Hall, booklet on Liberty Hall and Orlando Brown House, Frankfort, Kentucky
- Kleber, John E., Editor, The Kentucky Encyclopedia, Lexington: UK Press, 1992.
- Newcomb, Rexford, Architecture in Old Kentucky, Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1953
- Scott, Wm. B. Jr., article in The Southern Quarterly, Fall, 1987.

### Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at a point on the Kentucky River at the Northwest Point on the plat of H.C. Vallandigham of the Mason Brown lands; thence down the river S 4 degrees E 154 poles; thence leaving the river N 28 degrees W 54 poles to the place of beginning; then southwest 225 feet; thence northwest 100 feet; thence east northeast 150 feet; thence south 75 feet to the place of beginning; containing 1/2 acre, more or less.

### Verbal Boundary Justification

The nominated property is located on a farm with the current boundaries dating to 1884 when the Brown family divided up the original 1000 acre tract among various family members.









**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

**SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD**

NRIS Reference Number: 98000325 Date Listed: 4/27/98

Mason Brown House Owen KY  
Property Name: County: State:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Multiple Name

-----  
This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Patrick Andrews  
Signature of the Keeper

5/22/98  
Date of Action

=====  
Amended Items in Nomination:

Two different acreage figures are given in the form; in section 10 of the form 235 acres are listed, while the verbal boundary description lists less than one acre. The State has clarified that the less than one acre is the correct figure. Also, a Level of Significance was not selected in section 3 of the form; the State says that the building is of a State level of significance. The form is officially amended to include this information.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Brown, Mason, House

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: KENTUCKY, Owen

DATE RECEIVED: 3/13/98      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 3/23/98  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 4/08/98      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 4/27/98  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 98000325

NOMINATOR: STATE

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: Y    NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

\_\_\_ACCEPT    \_\_\_RETURN    \_\_\_REJECT    \_\_\_\_\_DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA accept B&C

REVIEWER Patrick Andrews      DISCIPLINE Historian

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_      DATE 4/27/98

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached

SLR Y/N  
495











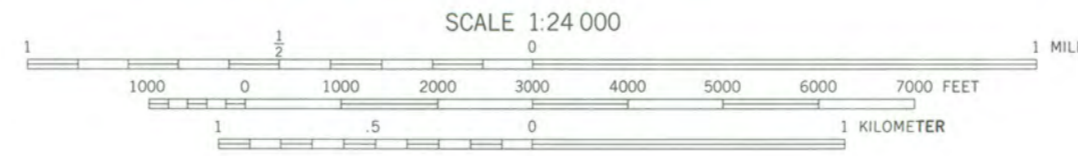
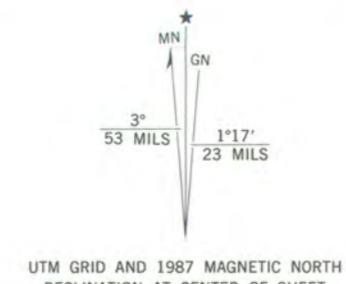
Brown, Mason, House  
Gratz Quad  
Owen Co, KY  
Zone 16  
Easting 679 705  
Northing 4235 450

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS, USC&GS, and USCE  
Topography from aerial photographs by multiplex methods  
Aerial photographs taken 1952. Field check 1953

Polyconic projection. 10,000-foot grid based on  
Kentucky coordinate system, north zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 16  
1927 North American Datum  
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983  
move the projection lines 4 meters south and  
5 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks

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



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET  
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225 OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092,  
KENTUCKY GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY 40506,  
KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40601.

ROAD CLASSIFICATION	
Heavy-duty	4 LANE 6 LANE Light-duty
Medium-duty	4 LANE 6 LANE Unimproved dirt
U. S. Route	State Route



GRATZ, KY.  
NW/4 LOCKPORT 15' QUADRANGLE  
38084-D8-TF-024

1953  
PHOTOREVISED 1987  
DMA 4060 IV NW-SERIES V853



Education, Arts and Humanities Cabinet

**KENTUCKY HERITAGE COUNCIL**

The State Historic Preservation Office

**David L. Morgan**  
Executive Director  
and SHPO

**Paul E. Patton**

Governor

**Roy Peterson**

Cabinet Secretary

March 3, 1998

Ms. Carol Shull, Chief  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service, U. S. Department of Interior  
PO BOX 37127  
Washington, D. C. 20013-7127

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed is documentation for two individual Kentucky properties, and two Multiple Property Submissions, recommended by the Review Board to meet the National Register eligibility criteria at their January 28, 1998 meeting. The individual properties include:

- ✓ **Mason Brown House**, Owen County
- Clifton-McCracken Pike Rural Historic District**, Woodford County

The Multiple Property Submissions include:

**Historic Resources of Boyle County (MPS)**, new submissions (MPDF already submitted):

- |                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Cincinnati Southern Railroad Culvert | Junction City Municipal Building                        |
| Aliceton Camp Meeting Ground         | First Christian Church                                  |
| Durham House                         | Mitchellsburg Louisville and Nashville Railroad Culvert |
| Robinson, James, House               | Tank Pond Railroad Underpass                            |
| Stone Bridge at Chaplin Creek        | Guthrie-May-Railey House                                |

**Rowan County, KY, WPA Stone Voting Houses (MPS)**, including the MPDF and the following submissions:

- |                          |                            |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Hogtown Voting House #4  | Pine Grove Voting House #5 |
| Brushy Voting House #6   | Morehead Voting House #7   |
| Haldeman Voting House #8 | Morehead Voting House #10  |
| Farmers Voting House #2  | Cranston Voting House #12  |
| Plank Voting House #15   | Hayes Voting House #16     |
| Lewis Voting House #17   |                            |

Note the submission for the **Dry Creek Voting House #14** (Rowan County, KY, WPA Stone Voting Houses) is for a determination of eligibility. The owner of that property objected. The objection letter is submitted. As State Historic Preservation Officer, I conclude they meet the National Register eligibility criteria. We appreciate your consideration of the historic significance of these Kentucky properties.

Sincerely,

David L. Morgan, Executive Director  
Kentucky Heritage Council and  
State Historic Preservation Officer

