

Buckner House (Rose Hill)
461 North Limestone,
Lexington, Kentucky.

Fayette County

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of Kentucky
REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
CENTRAL UNIT—ST. LOUIS

Historic American Buildings Survey
E. T. Hutchings, District Officer
1708 Heyburn Building, Louisville, Ky.

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Name of structure: "Rose Hill"

Location: 461 North Limestone Street, Lexington,
Fayette County, Kentucky

Owner or
custodian: Mr. and Mrs. G. Davis Buckner

Address: 461 North Limestone Street, Lexington,
Fayette County, Kentucky

Date built: 1820
(approx)

Architect
or builder: Unknown.

Present
condition: Good

Number of
stories: One story

Material used
in construction: Foundation: Native stone.
Exterior walls: Solid brick, painted.
Interior partitions: Brick and frame,
plastered.
Floors: Wood, random width, ash.
Roof: Frame construction, covered with
wood shingles.

Description: Several additions have been made to the
architectural original structure, as can be seen by
and historical referring to the photographs which
accompany this data and to the drawings.

It was possible in measuring the building to determine its original shape and plan. The drawings have been made to record that which was original and have omitted the later additions to the body of the house, as well as a number of interior alterations. For example: photographs show a double door between the library and drawing room, whereas, originally there was a single door.

The original kitchen was in a separate structure detached from the main body of the house, the only connection being a porch, possibly covered, as shown on the plot plan. This accounts for the fact that the first floor plan does not indicate the present kitchen. The names of the rooms are indicated for the use intended when originally built.

The slave quarters at the northwest corner of the house, opposite the original kitchen, was removed to make way for a later addition to the main body of the house and which addition can be seen by referring to the photograph. Likewise the old ice-house on the west side of the building has been removed.

The room indicated on the drawings as the library is now being used as a dining room.

The original main entrance side lights were evidently divided by lead muntins into ornamental designs, as markers on the present glass indicate the design which has been reconstructed and shown in the detail drawings of the main entrance.

The interior wood work, including the doors, trim, and mantles are beautifully designed and were executed by skilled craftsmen, a feature which has made this house one of the most outstanding in the State from an architectural standpoint.

"Rose Hill" was built by John Brand who was born in Montrose, Scotland, November 26, 1775.

History of Fayette County Kentucky by Dr. Robert Peter, page 566, states that John Brand came to America from Dundee, Scotland, soon after his financial reverses there in 1800, and remained in Philadelphia for a while.

In the Spring of 1802, on the advice of friends made while there, he came to Lexington, then the center of the hemp region of Kentucky, and established a hemp factory in which the first piece of hemp bagging ever made in the United States was manufactured. In this industry he acquired a substantial fortune, and in 1818 he returned to Scotland to visit his aged parents and to pay his creditors in full. It is stated that he was afterwards referred to in Scotland and on the Continent as "the one honest man in America". Returning to America he continued his business until his retirement in 1833.

Mr. Brand was an intimate friend of Henry Clay, and was a director in the Northern Bank of Kentucky; was always greatly interested in all issues to advance the material and intellectual progress of the country.

Mr. Brand died at Lexington, Kentucky, September 9, 1849, and was survived by two sons and one daughter, who later married Chief Justice George W. Woodward, of Pennsylvania.

A newspaper clipping on file in the Louisville Free Public Library states that the famous Scotch writer, John Melish, in his "Travels in the United States of America, Great Britain and Ireland in 1806, 1807, 1808", comments on and compares the climate of the western country with the English climate, and further that he viewed Lexington as the most beautiful tract of land he ever saw. "We went through several rope walks owned by Mr. John Brand, a hemp manufacturer from Dundee, Scotland, where a number of black fellows were busily employed", and follows with a description of being entertained "delightfully by Mr. Brand in his home".

The present owners and occupants of the house are descendants of Dr. Alexander Humphreys, the celebrated surgeon of Scotland, and who staked John Brand to his new start in America.

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G. M. Trimmer

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