

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. Name of Property

historic name Kurtz Restaurant and Bardstown-Parkview Motel-Office

other names/site number KHC Individual Survey No. NEB 403, NEB-403.1, NEB 403.2

2. Location

street & number 418 East 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 not for publication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 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Signature of certifying official/Title Mark Dennen, 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 _____

Kurtz Restaurant and Bardstown-Parkview Motel-Office
Name of Property

Nelson County, KY
County and State

5. Classification

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

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

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

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
4	0	buildings
		district
		site
		structure
		object
4	0	Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/hotel

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

COMMERCE/TRADE/restaurant

DOMESTIC/hotel

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

COMMERCE/TRADE/restaurant

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

No style

foundation: CONCRETE; STONE/Limestone

walls: WOOD/Weatherboard; STONE/Limestone

roof: ASPHALT

other:

Kurtz Restaurant and Bardstown-Parkview Motel-Office
Name of Property

Nelson County, KY
County and State

Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

This nomination proposes listing for Kurtz Restaurant (1937, NEB-403), the Bardstown Parkview Motel (1959, enlarged 1960, NEB-403.1), and the Bardstown-Parkview Motel office (1957, NEB-403.2). The Kurtz Restaurant and Bardstown-Parkview Motel are located at 418 East Stephen Foster Avenue (U. S. Highway 150) in Bardstown, Nelson County, Kentucky. The restaurant and motel have operated continuously under the same ownership as an integrated business and they are situated on adjoining lots on approximately two acres approximately one-half mile east of downtown Bardstown. The property is located in the Bardstown Local Historic District, in a residential neighborhood consisting of single-family homes.

Development of the Site and Character of Setting

In 1928, Curtis Ochs, W. O. Stiles, and other investors purchased a tract situated on the north side of East Stephen Foster Avenue, between the Wickland and Beechwold properties and divided it into one hundred and eighteen lots.ⁱ This tract became known as the Foster Heights Subdivision. On August 2, 1937, J. Merrill Kurtz and his wife, Annette C. Kurtz, purchased Lots 31 and 32 of the Foster Heights Subdivision at the northwest corner of East Stephen Foster Avenue and Collins Street. They built a two-story building that housed a restaurant on the first floor and living quarters on the second floor.ⁱⁱ In 1950 the owners of Beechwold divided part of the property into lots and the Kurtzes purchased fifteen lots along East Stephen Foster Avenue, across Collins St. from the restaurant.ⁱⁱⁱ In 1959 the Kurtzes built the Bardstown-Parkview Motel on this property. They located the motel office in a residence which they had purchased in 1957 and which was located on an adjoining lot to the north of the restaurant.^{iv}

The restaurant and motel face My Old Kentucky Home (National Register #71000354), the city's main tourist attraction, directly across East Stephen Foster Avenue. Beechwold, an early twentieth century Colonial Revival mansion (National Register #84000355), adjoins the property on the northeast. The property is situated on land that was formerly part of the Wickland plantation, and the Wickland mansion (National Register #73000824), built circa 1820, is located nearby to the north. The restaurant and motel are located in a park-like setting with large areas of green space and mature beech and maple trees separating the buildings from East Stephen Foster Avenue. The buildings are situated on the slope of a steep hill with a spacious view of My Old Kentucky Home. The restaurant is set back fifty feet from the street and includes a parking area in the front. The motel buildings are set back one hundred and fifty feet from the street. Entrance to the restaurant, motel, and office is via a small driveway (formerly Collins Street). There another separate entrance from East Stephen Foster Avenue to the motel to the east. The historic viewscape of Kurtz Restaurant and the Bardstown-Parkview Motel and office remain very intact since their construction.

Kurtz Restaurant

The Kurtz Restaurant was built in 1937 by for J. Merrill Kurtz and his wife, Annette C. Kurtz, as a restaurant and residence.^v The original building measured forty-five feet in the front and extended fifty feet to the rear (north). It was two-stories and rested on a stone foundation. The building was constructed of solid limestone laid in irregular courses. The limestone was quarried from the Kurtz's farm in western Nelson County.^{vi} It has a five-bay facade, side-gabled roof, double-piled plan, and featured a flush stone chimney that projected through the roof on the east elevation. The building included central hip-roofed dormers on the facade and north elevations. The gables on the east and west elevations were truncated and featured exposed

ⁱ *Nelson County Deed Book 96*, page 191.

ⁱⁱ *Nelson County Deed Book 105* page 469.

ⁱⁱⁱ *Nelson County Deed Book 125* page 375.

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

^v *Ibid.*

^{vi} *Ibid.*

Kurtz Restaurant and Bardstown-Parkview Motel-Office
Name of Property

Nelson County, KY
County and State

rafters. The restaurant and kitchen were located on the first floor and the Kurtzes lived on the second floor. Access to the second floor was via a stairway from the kitchen.

In 1985 the Kurtzes constructed a two-story seventeen-foot addition to the entire façade of the restaurant in order to accommodate their growing business and to provide for a more accessible stairway to the second floor. The roofline of the addition is hipped and covered in asphalt shingles to match the original roof. The façade wall is also five bays and is constructed of solid limestone, laid in irregular courses to match the original wall. The façade includes a central double door flanked by two nine-over-nine double-hung sash windows with non-functional paneled shutters. Five identical windows are arranged across the second floor. Part of the east wall is constructed with vertical wood siding. The original structure of the house, including the stone chimney, is visible from the east and north elevations and the original façade, including doorway and fenestration, has been preserved in the interior. The restaurant and living quarters are in excellent condition.

Bardstown-Parkview Motel

In 1959, in anticipation of the grand opening season of the Stephen Foster Story outdoor drama, the Kurtzes contracted with local builder Chester Holt to construct a one-story motel on their Beechwold property just to the east of the restaurant.^{vii} Holt built a one-story L-shaped motel building with an integral gable roof. Named the Bardstown-Parkview Motel, it extends one hundred and thirty-two feet parallel to East Stephen Foster Avenue, facing My Old Kentucky Home, and then extends forty-five feet to the north along Collins Street. It was constructed of concrete block, with limestone veneer to match the Kurtz Restaurant.

In 1960, Donald Dick, husband of the Kurtz's daughter, Marilyn Kurtz Dick, enlarged the motel by constructing a separate two-story building a few feet east of the original building.^{viii} This building measures one hundred twenty-eight feet by twenty-seven feet and faces My Old Kentucky Home. It is also constructed with matching limestone veneer walls and a gable roof covered in asphalt shingles. Each room included one aluminum-frame window with non-functioning shutters. A concrete walkway extends along the second floor and is supported by decorative wrought iron posts. The façade of the building is dominated by a central projecting two-story, gabled portico that is supported by four square, wood columns. The Bardstown-Parkview motel buildings retain all of their original architectural elements and are in excellent condition.

Bardstown-Parkview Motel Office

The Bardstown-Parkview Motel office is located in a one-story Ranch-style residence that was built for J. Merrill Kurtz and Annette C. Kurtz in 1957.^{ix} It is situated on Lot 6 of the Forest Heights Subdivision and adjoins the Kurtz Restaurant on the south and the Bardstown-Parkview Motel on the east. The Kurtzes located the motel office in the building upon completion of the Bardstown-Parkview Motel in 1959. Entrance to the office is through a gabled canopy that is supported by four square wood posts. The building is constructed of limestone veneer walls that match those of the restaurant and motel. It is in excellent condition. The façade of the building and includes four bays, a central stone chimney, and an attached garage. The motel office occupies a small, hip-roofed, stone-veneered addition on the east side of the building. The rest of the building is leased by the Kurtzes as a residence. It is in excellent condition.

^{vii} *Ibid.*, *The Kentucky Standard*, 25 June 1959.

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

^{ix} *Ibid.*

Kurtz Restaurant and Bardstown-Parkview Motel-Office
Name of Property

Nelson County, KY
County and State

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

Holt, Chester (builder)

Dick, Donald (builder)

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)

Kurtz Restaurant was built for J. Merrill and Annette Kurtz in 1937; the Bardstown-Parkview Hotel was built for J. Merrill and Annette Kurtz in 1959 and enlarged in 1960; and the Bardstown-Parkview Motel Office was built for J. Merrill and Annette Kurtz in 1957. All four buildings continued to have importance through 1961; no earlier date can be assigned to the end of the Period of Significance

Criteria Considerations NA

Kurtz Restaurant and Bardstown-Parkview Motel-Office
Name of Property

Nelson County, KY
County and State

Statement of Significance

Summary Paragraph

The Kurtz Restaurant (1937, NEB-403), Bardstown Parkview Motel (1959, enlarged 1960, NEB-403.1), and the Bardstown-Parkview Motel office (1957, NEB-403.2) meet National Register Criterion A. Their significance is being interpreted within the historic context “Automobile Travel and the Growth and Development of Tourism in Central Kentucky, 1937-1961.” 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 My Old Kentucky Home State Park, and other historic sites in Bardstown made this location an ideal site for a restaurant and motel. The Kurtz family has owned and operated these properties since their construction, and the restaurant and motel show how they adapted building design to the changing needs of the traveling public. The design of The Bardstown-Parkview Motel is typical of 1950’s-era motel design.

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.

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

Kurtz Restaurant and Bardstown-Parkview Motel-Office
Name of Property

Nelson County, KY
County and State

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.”^x 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.^{xi} The Kentucky portion, formerly the Central Lincoln Road, was finally paved in 1925^{xii} 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.^{xiii} 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.^{xiv} 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.”^{xv}

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.^{xvi} Officially known as My Old Kentucky Home, the property became the first Kentucky state shrine in 1923. The celebration of this event July 4-5, 1923 was attended by over 15,000 visitors.^{xvii} 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.^{xviii} 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Kurtz Restaurant and Bardstown-Parkview Motel-Office
Name of Property

Nelson County, KY
County and State

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.^{xix}

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.^{xx} 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.^{xxi} 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*.^{xxii} In 1938 a new owner capitalized on the desire of tourists to visit Bardstown’s historic sites by renaming it the Old Talbott Tavern.^{xxiii} In 1959 it touted itself as “The Oldest Hotel West of the Alleghenies”^{xxiv} 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.

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).

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

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

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

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

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

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

Kurtz Restaurant and Bardstown-Parkview Motel-Office
Name of Property

Nelson County, KY
County and State

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.^{xxv} Many of the later cottage courts connected the individual units with wall-to-wall sheltered parking spaces.^{xxvi} 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.^{xxvii} 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."^{xxviii} 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.^{xxix} Motels looked more inviting to the traveler than the older tourist courts, and their design in the early 1950s drew upon the "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.

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.

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

^{xxvi} *Ibid*, 43.

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

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

^{xxix} *Ibid*, 45.

Kurtz Restaurant and Bardstown-Parkview Motel-Office
Name of Property

Nelson County, KY
County and State

Evaluation of the historic significance of the Kurtz Restaurant, and the Bardstown-Parkview Motel and Office within the context Automobile Travel and the Growth and Development of Tourism in Central Kentucky, 1926-1961

The Kurtz Restaurant, and the Bardstown-Parkview Motel and Office are significant within their historic context because their site, setting, and building design show us the important changes that have occurred in the lodging industry for their Period of Significance, which starts in 1937. The businesses continued under the same family ownership during the entire period and demonstrate how the development of public highways and tourism created new opportunities for persons seeking to establish new businesses in Bardstown.

In 1937, J. Merrill Kurtz and his wife, Annette, decided to move from their farm in western Nelson County and build a restaurant and residence in Bardstown. They completed construction of a two-story house later that year, using limestone quarried on their farm. They operated the restaurant on the first floor and made their living quarters on the second floor. They had originally planned to operate a restaurant for local patrons, but the popularity of their home-cooked meals – including the first pasteurized milk sold in Bardstown - made them a favorite with tourists as well.^{xxx} The original Colonial Revival design of the restaurant fit in well with the surrounding residences and My Old Kentucky Home, and there was ample parking for their customers. Anticipating the grand opening in June, 1959 of “The Stephen Foster Story” outdoor drama at My Old Kentucky Home, the Kurtzes decided in 1958 to build a motel to accommodate some of the thousands of guests who were expected to attend this event.^{xxxi} They completed construction in early 1959 of a one-story, stone-veneered L-shaped motel which they named the Bardstown-Parkview Motel. The motel was built on an adjoining lot to the east of the restaurant and had fifteen units. The design of the motel was typical of 1950s-era motels and included a covered walkway, parking in the front of the building, spacious rooms, and a swimming pool. The Kurtzes converted part of a ranch-style residence, which adjoined the restaurant on the north, into a motel office. In 1960 they expanded their business by constructing a two-story motel building adjacent to the east of the original one-story building. This building featured a full two-story projecting front portico, supported by four round columns. The building design and setting reinforced its connection with My Old Kentucky Home and other historic buildings in Bardstown.

The restaurant met the needs of tourists by serving traditional home-cooked meals. The motel designs satisfied a desire on the part of tourists for more modern accommodations and more pleasant and relaxing settings. The rooms were spacious and air conditioned and guests could relax at the swimming pool in the rear or sit under shady trees in the front with a view of My Old Kentucky Home. Double entrances from the highway made automobile access convenient. The Kurtzes provided their guests with an adjacent restaurant and lodging that fit in perfectly with its historic surroundings.

Evaluation of Integrity of the Property’s Significance Location and Setting

The Kurtz Restaurant and the Bardstown-Parkview Motel and office all retain a high degree of integrity of location and setting. The location for the restaurant and motel was an excellent choice because of its location on a major public highway (the old Dixie Central Highway) and its proximity to My Old Kentucky Home. Guests could eat at the restaurant, park their cars in front of their motel rooms, and walk across the street to the region’s premier tourist attraction. The location of the two motel buildings and office at the top of a large grassy hill among shady trees made for an inviting and peaceful setting.

The lots on which they are situated retain their original boundaries and the large grassy area that extends from the highway up the hill to the front of the buildings remains unaltered. The double entrance and parking in front of the restaurant and motel buildings remain the same. The restaurant and motel are still

^{xxx} Oral interview with Marilyn K. Dick, 16 March 2011 at Kurtz Restaurant.

^{xxxi} Ibid.

Kurtz Restaurant and Bardstown-Parkview Motel-Office
Name of Property

Nelson County, KY
County and State

surrounded by the same type of residences. Essentially, the location and setting of the property remain the same as the end of the period of significance in 1961.

Design

The popularity of the Kurtz restaurant with tourists created a need for more space. A seventeen-foot addition to the façade was constructed in 1985 to provide more serving space. In altering the façade, the Kurtzes attempted to continue the Colonial Revival design of the building by matching the original limestone walls with additional limestone quarried from their farm. They retained the original façade, including fenestration, in the interior of the restaurant. More importantly, the restaurant continues to serve much of the same original menu and is owned and operated by Marilyn K. Dick, the daughter of the original owners. The motel buildings retain a high degree of integrity of design. They were designed in 1959 and 1960 to provide more parking and more spacious rooms for guests, and they were drawn from motel design typical for the 1950s. The motel office remains largely unchanged.

Materials and Workmanship

The restaurant, motel, and motel office are unified architecturally by the use of limestone veneer. The use of a natural stone enhances their historic setting and purpose. 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 motel office was built with matching stone veneer and is in excellent condition.

Association

The restaurant and motel are still in operation under the same name and under the same family ownership. They retain a high degree of integrity of association with transportation and the development of public highways and tourism. They were built at this location to attract tourists traveling to Bardstown to visit My Old Kentucky Home and other historic sites. Its location on U. S. Highway 150, directly across the highway from My Old Kentucky Home, made it an ideal location for tourist lodging.

Feeling

The location, building design, open space, shady trees, convey a strong sense of integrity of feeling. The setting of the immediate area has not changed appreciably since 1961 and the property imparts a strong feeling of continuity and historic character. It looks much like it did when the motel addition was built in 1961.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

Primary Sources

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, 20 November 1952.

Kentucky Standard, 27 May 1954.

Kentucky Standard, 5 June 1955.

Kentucky Standard, 18 June 1959.

Kurtz Restaurant and Bardstown-Parkview Motel-Office
Name of Property

Nelson County, KY
County and State

Kentucky Standard, 25 June 1959.

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

US Population Census for Nelson County, Kentucky, 1920 and 1930.

USGS Topo Map, Bardstown Quadrangle, 1953.

USGS Topo Map, Bardstown Quadrangle, 1987.

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.

Automobile Blue Book, 1918.

Automobile Blue Book, 1920.

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.).

Virginia & Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (Alfred A. Knopf, 2006).

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

Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government

Kurtz Restaurant and Bardstown-Parkview Motel-Office
Name of Property

Nelson County, KY
County and State

designated a National Historic Landmark
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #
recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #

University
Other
Name of repository:

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): NEB-402

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	<u>16</u>	<u>635 810</u>	<u>4185 483</u>	3	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>	4	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary of Kurtz Restaurant and the Bardstown-Parkview Motel and office includes the following three adjoining properties (for further reference see attached site plan):

Kurtz Restaurant: Lots 32 and 33 in Foster Heights Subdivision (*Nelson County Deed Book 105*, p. 469; *Plat of Foster Heights Subdivision*, *Nelson County Deed Book 96*, p. 191.).

Bardstown-Parkview Motel office: Lot 6 in Foster Heights Subdivision (*Nelson County Deed Book 140*, p. 400; *Plat of Foster Heights Subdivision*, *Nelson County Deed Book 131*, p. 1587.).

Bardstown-Parkview Motel: Lots 32 and 33 and west part of Lots 13, 14, and 15 in Beechwold Addition (*Nelson County Deed Book 125*, p. 375; *Nelson County Deed Book 284*, p. 488; *Plat of Beechwold Addition*, *Nelson County Deed Book 124*, p. 463.).

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary encloses all of the original property that contributed to the historic character of Kurtz Restaurant and the Bardstown-Parkview Motel and office.

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

Kurtz Restaurant and Bardstown-Parkview Motel-Office
 Name of Property

Nelson County, KY
 County and State

e-mail pbogert@bardstowncable.net

Photographs:

Photo Log

Name of Property: Kurtz Restaurant, Bardstown-Parkview , and Bardstown-Parkview Motel Office
 City or Vicinity: Bardstown
 County: Nelson County
 State: KY
 Name of Photographer: Pen Bogert
 Date of Photographs: April 11, 2011
 Location of Original Digital Files: Kentucky Heritage Council
 300 Washington St.
 Frankfort, KY 40601
 Number of Photographs 18

Photo #	Description and Camera Direction
0001	Motel sign, facing west.
0002	Greenspace and view of My Old Kentucky Home, facing south.
0003	Restaurant, south façade, facing north.
0004	Restaurant, west façade (left) and south elevation (right), facing northwest.
0005	Restaurant, south façade (left) and east elevation (right), facing northwest.
0006	Restaurant, east façade (left) and north elevation (right), facing southwest.
0007	Restaurant, east façade (left) and north elevation (right), facing southwest.
0008	Office, southeast façade, facing northwest.
0009	Office, southeast façade, facing northwest.
0010	Office, southwest façade, facing northeast.
0011	Office, southeast façade (left) and northeast façade (right), facing southwest.
0012	Motel building 1, south façade, facing north.
0013	Motel building 1, west façade (left) and south elevation (right), facing northeast.
0014	Motel building 1, south façade (left) and east elevation (right), facing northwest.
0015	Motel building 1, north façade, facing south.
0016	Motel building 2, south elevation, facing north.
0017	Motel building 2, west façade (left) and south elevation (right), facing northeast.
0018	Motel building 2, south façade (left) and east elevation (right), facing northwest.

Kurtz Restaurant and Bardstown-Parkview Motel-Office
Name of Property

Nelson County, KY
County and State

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

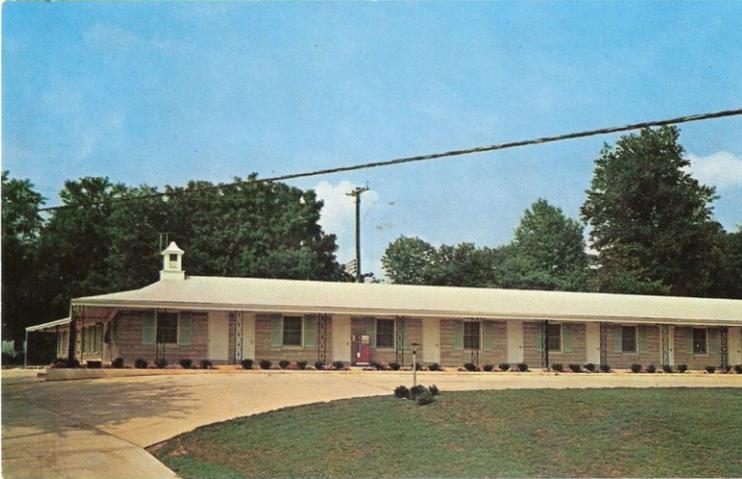
**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 1

Kurtz Restaurant and Bardstown- Parkview Motel-Office
Name of Property Nelson County, KY
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Historic Images



Postcard view of one-story building, facing north (c. 1960.).

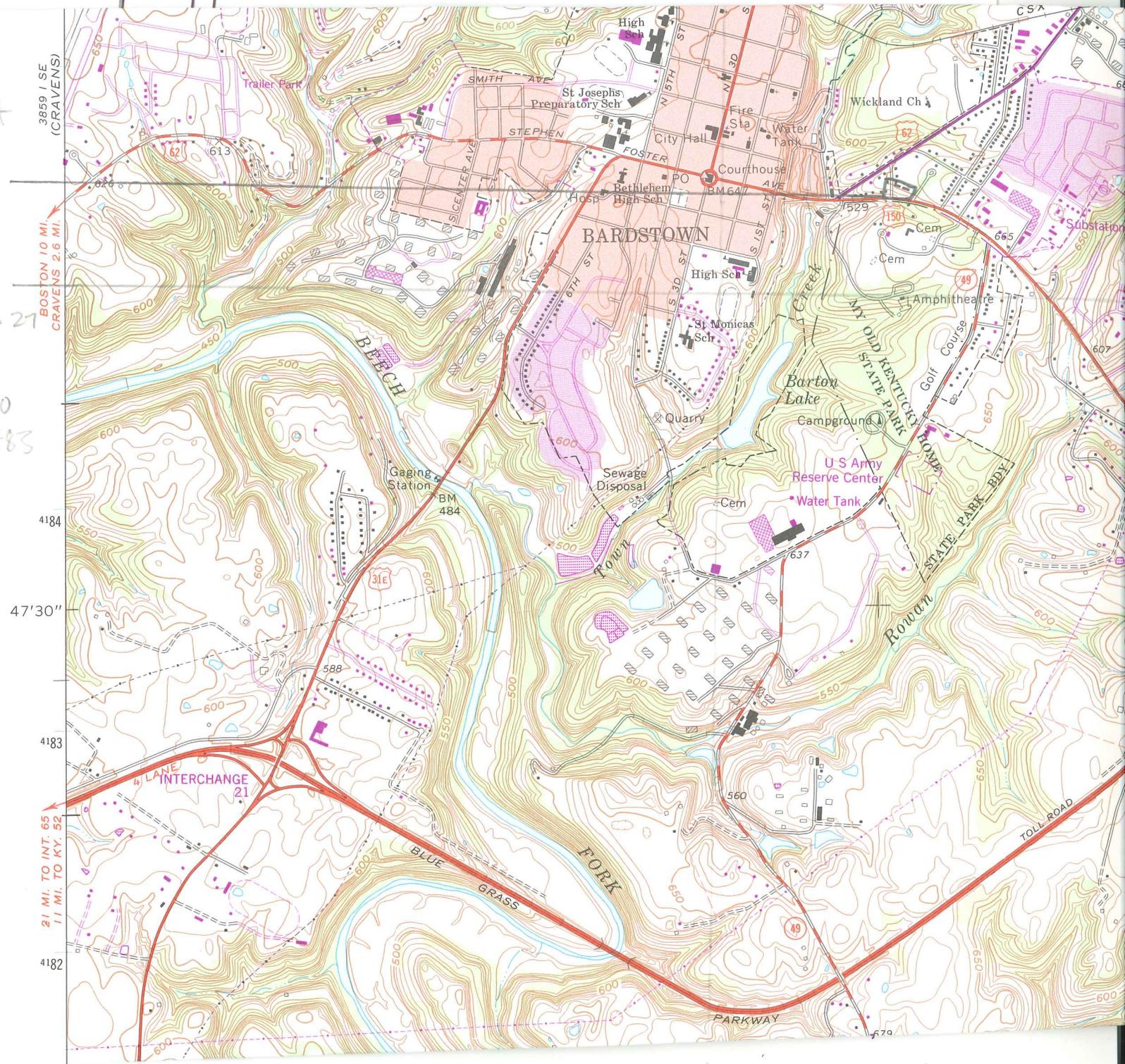


Postcard view of both buildings, facing northwest (early 1960's).

ave.
①
②

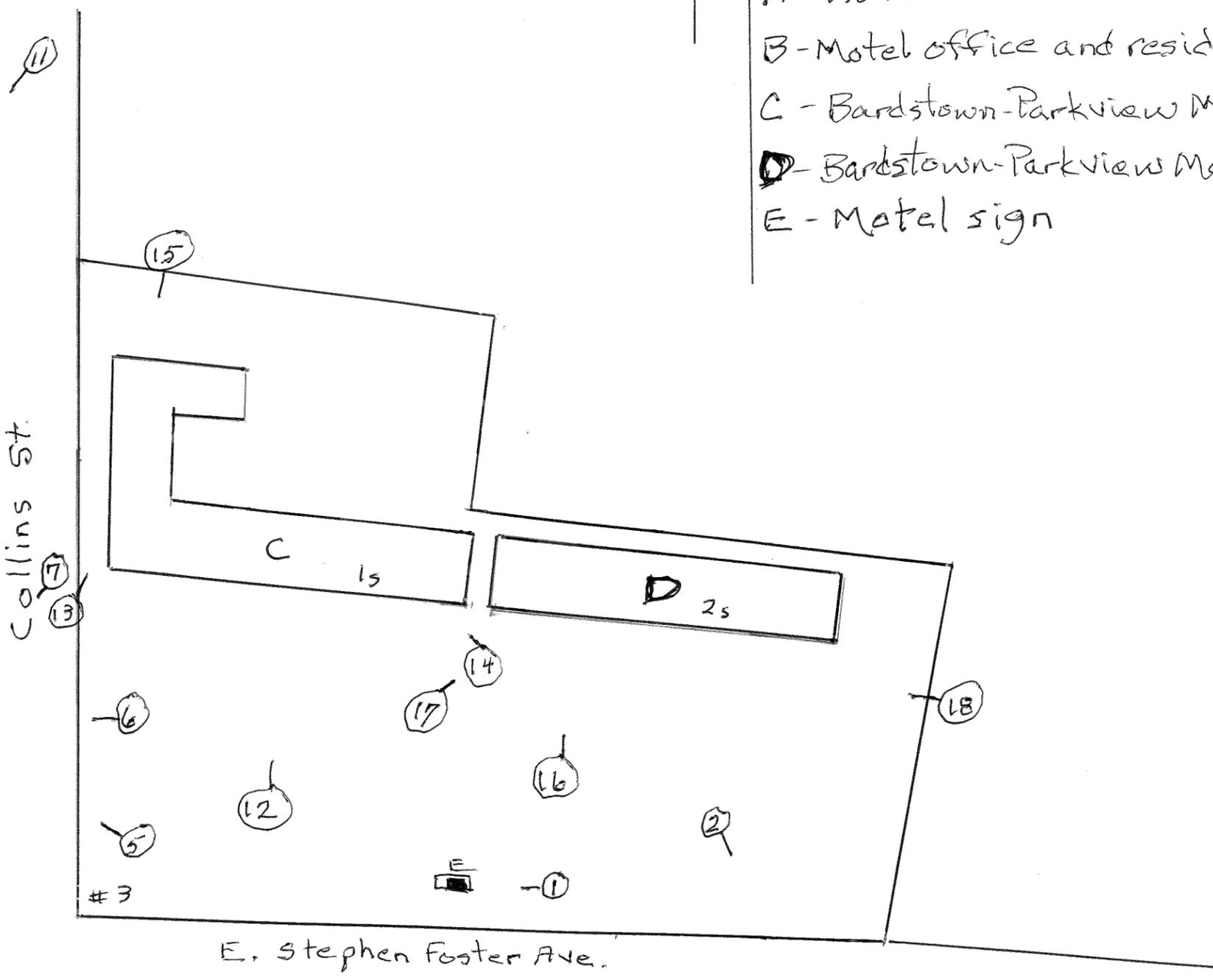
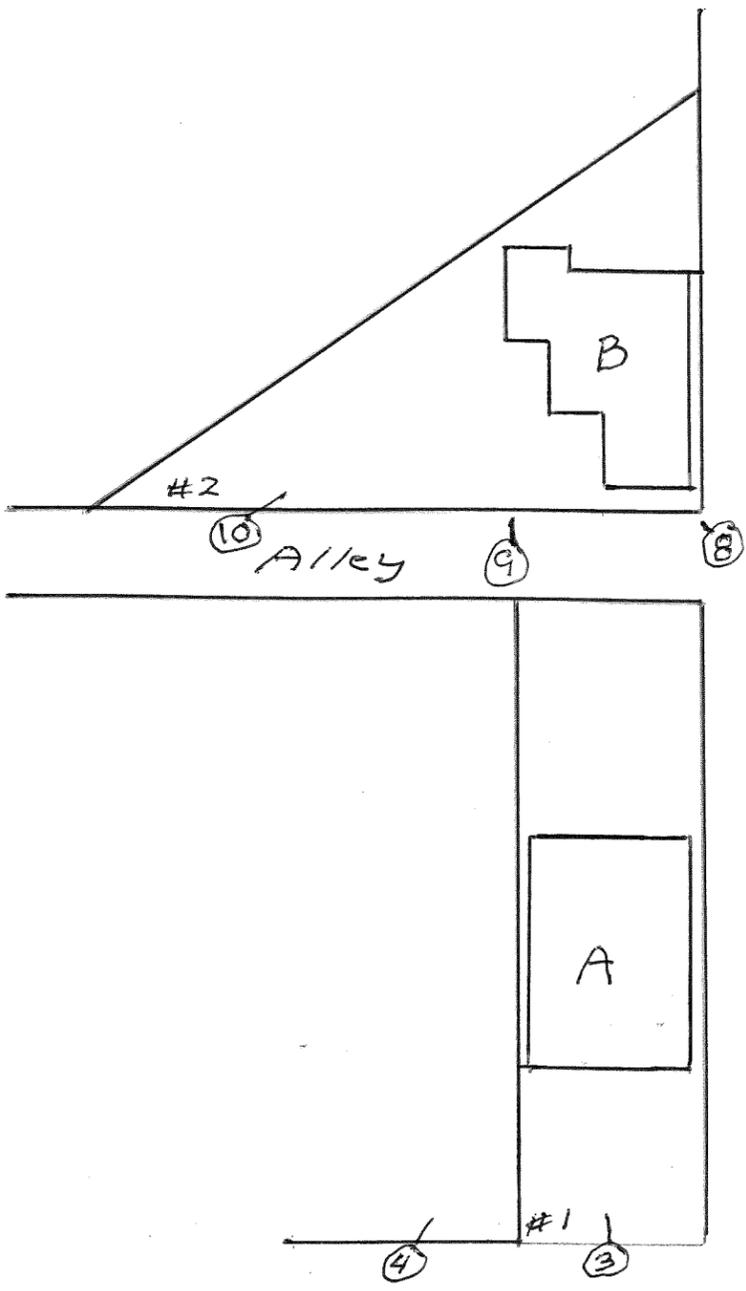
Kurtz Restaurant
&
Bardstown
Parkview Motel

Nelson Co, Ky
Coordinates NAD 27
Zone 16
Easting 635 810
Northing 4185 483



Site Plan
 Kurtz Restaurant
 Parkview Motel
 1" = 50' April 2011

- #1 - Lots 31 & 32, Forest Heights Subdivision
- #2 - Lot 6, Forest Heights Subdivision
- #3 - Lots 1-12 and part of Lots 13-15, Beechwood Subdivision
- A - Kurtz Restaurant (1937, 1985)
- B - Motel office and residence (1957)
- C - Bardstown-Parkview Motel, one-story (1959)
- D - Bardstown-Parkview Motel, two-stories (1960)
- E - Motel sign



E. Stephen Foster Ave.

BARDSTOWN *Parkview*
MOTEL

DAILY OR WEEKLY
RATES



KURTZ
RESTAURANT







MURTZ
188-473
GARDEN







STONE CHIMNEY

FRONT DOOR FOR
ENTRANCE
AND ENTRANCE



POND DINING ROOM
ENTRANCE
POND ENTRANCE



OFFICE



OFFICE







OFFICE











