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INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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 on the back of the form. 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 Mitchell-Estes Farmstead

other names/site number Old Jack White Homestead

2. Location

street & number 1706 Upper Smiths Grove Road NA not for publication

city or town Smiths Grove vicinity

state Kentucky code KY county Edmonson Warren code 061 227 zip code 42171

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.)

David L. Morgan, SHPO and
Executive Director 11-7-95

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State Historic Preservation Office: Kentucky Heritage Council

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): _____

Entered in the
National Register

Date of Action

1-11-96

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.)

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

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

Table with columns: Contributing, Noncontributing, buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total. Values: 2, 2, 1, 1, 3, 3.

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

None

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single-dwelling, AGRICULTURE/agriculture outbuilding, FUNERARY/graves/burials, AGRICULTURE/storage

DOMESTIC/single-dwelling, AGRICULTURE/agriculture outbuilding, FUNERARY/graves/burials, AGRICULTURE/storage

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN/Queen Anne

foundation STONE/limestone (fieldstone), walls WOOD/weatherboard

roof SYNTHETICS/fiberglass

other

Narrative Description

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

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.

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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture

Period of Significance

1892-1945

Significant Dates

1892

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

NA

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

**Bowling Green Historic Preservation Bd.
Kentucky Library, Western Kentucky Univ**

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 93.64 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

Table with 4 rows and 3 columns of UTM coordinates (Zone, Easting, Northing) for Smiths Grove Quad.

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 Janet L. Johnston

organization date July 27, 1995

street & number 1511 Benson Avenue telephone 502-796-6039

city or town Bowling Green state KY zip code 42104

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

street & number telephone

city or town state zip code

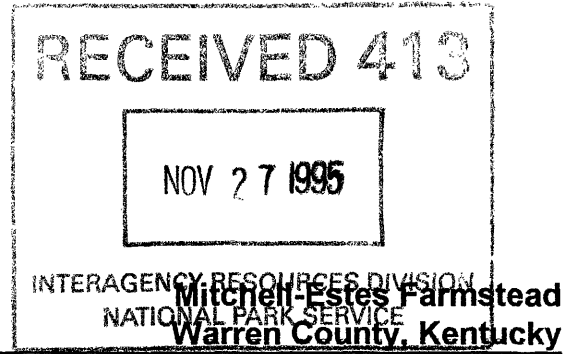
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain 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.

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Narrative Description

The Mitchell-Estes Farmstead contains 93.64 acres located approximately 1 1/4 miles north of Smiths Grove, Kentucky. The boundaries of the farmstead are county roads on the south, north, and west sides and farmland to the east. The type of soil is Pembroke silt loam and is classified as prime farmland suitable for the cultivation of crops. While the farmstead does have a sizeable sinkhole and considerable limestone deposits, it has been productive farmland. The homeplace, three outbuildings, silo, and small graveyard are situated to the west side of the property. The homeplace is located approximately 500 feet from the Upper Smiths Grove and is landscaped with a modest lawn, trees, flowers, and uncut limestone fence. The property is historically significant and has contributed to the agricultural development in Smiths Grove and Warren County. The nominated property includes the entire 93.64 acres, two contributing buildings, two noncontributing buildings, one noncontributing structure, and one contributing site.

Farmhouse (circa 1892)

The Mitchell-Estes homeplace is vernacular in its use of natural materials, such as limestone and yellow poplar wood, and its workmanship. However, it exhibits the Queen Anne free classic style by its applied ornamentation. The house incorporates simple detail and construction with the high style ornamentation of the Victorian period. The house and its setting are examples of a rural historic landscape in Warren County and provide reflections of typical construction and traditions of rural, farming communities.

The two-story, irregular plan encompasses a 49' x 40.2' original section and a 50.3' x 40.2' rear addition. The facade contains a Queen Anne style wraparound porch that extends from the recessed, northern side to the dominant front facing gable on the south side of the house. The porch has a new poured-concrete foundation and classical columns. The house has a hipped roof with intersecting cross gables. The porch steps are located on the side of the house. The stick framing of the house is yellow poplar wood and is covered by horizontal poplar clapboard. The foundation of the house is an uncut, limestone fieldstone. The roof originally was shingled; however, due to deterioration, the old roof was replaced by a forty-year fiberglass shingled roof. The construction of the hipped roof is an all common rafter, post and beam construction. The original 1892 house was added to a section of an older house that belonged to John ("Jack") White. The remains of the old Jack White homeplace were a kitchen/dining area, porch, and storage area. This small portion was destroyed in the renovation process of 1991.

The front facing gable has simple woodwork of yellow poplar wood. Two poplar sunburst motif brackets flank each side of the gable. A plaque inscribed 1892 was found during the renovations in 1991. Tripartite sash windows are the focal points of the uppermost section of the front gable. The roof and wall junction are open eaves with exposed rafters and exhibit yellow poplar cornices and fascia. The front facing gable spans the two floors, and on each floor, three 7' x 3' bay windows exist. The second floor, large bay areas have only one sash window; however, the first floor bays have two windows on the outside bay sections. All windows and doors of the house, including the addition, have yellow poplar door surrounds. The lintels and sills are yellow poplar and Queen Anne in design. Several windows of the houses are stained glass sash windows with a larger stained pane surrounded by small square stained panes. The front entrance of the house is a side entrance on the northwest side of the house. The front door is a Colonial Revival style, double paneled door with yellow poplar surrounds and rosettes.

The interior of the house features a "socially-locked" plan. A large vestibule (21' x 10'), open stairway, and the central passageway (17' x 5') created a "social lock" from the remainder of the house. The vertical bay on the south side of the house contains a parlor and dining area. The north vertical bay contains a bedroom. Most of the rooms are large with 9' ceilings. The second floor contains a bathroom, central passage, and three large bedrooms. The south vertical bay contains a chimney on each side of the rooms. The woodwork throughout the home is original yellow poplar. The closets on the second floor are diagonal closets. The interior passageway doors have a single transom light with adjustable openings. The other doors are simple paneled interior doors. The first floor flooring is 1940s hardwood; however, the second floor flooring and stairway are original yellow poplar. The home originally had gas light fixtures. However, due to vandalism, the fixtures have been replaced with similar antique fixtures.

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Mitchell-Estes Farmstead
Warren County, Kentucky

The Estes purchased the home and 93.64 acres in 1983. For approximately twelve years, the home remained vacant, and deterioration due to lack of use, weather, and vandalism occurred. In 1991, the house underwent considerable restoration. Because the older Jack White section had deteriorated beyond repair, it was razed and replaced with a modern addition of a kitchen, screened porch, garage, and den. The interior and exterior window and door surrounds of the addition are replicas of the original surrounds on the 1892 section. In order to maintain the historical character and materials of the structure, the rear addition has vertical, wood siding. Other renovation projects included the raising of the foundation to construct a full basement. The original home had a fruit cellar; however, the placement of central air and heating required more space under the house. During the construction of the basement, the original chimney was removed and replaced with a brick chimney. The original grates were retained. The uncut limestone foundation was restored using the original fieldstone. Because of serious deterioration of the porch, a new poured concrete foundation was constructed and the original half-fieldstone, poplar columns were replaced by classic columns. Because of water damage and the space for electrical and plumbing devices, the plaster walls were removed and replaced with dry wall. The original interior and exterior woodwork, doors, and flooring are intact; however, the sashes of the windows have been replaced. The shingled roof has been replaced by a forty-year fiberglass shingle.

Outbuildings and Structures

This farmstead also contains three agricultural outbuildings and a silo. The upper barn was constructed in the 1960s. It is a side-drive crib with a shed addition and is 64.4' x 33.2'. According to Billy Joe Mitchell, a former owner, this barn was used for storage of hay, corn, and other agricultural products. Today the Estes use the upper barn for storage of farm machinery and implements. The lower barn or shed was constructed in the 1940s and is also a side-drive crib with a shed addition. It measures 24' x 40.7'. Both the upper and lower barns have been renovated by the Estes family. The barns have post and beam construction covered with vertical wood plans. The barns have steeply-pitched roofs covered with corrugated metal.

Besides the upper and lower barns, the farmstead also includes a horse barn and silo. In the 1980s, the Estes family constructed a horse barn. It measures 47.9' x 24' and houses two horses. The silo was constructed in the 1940s and is still used by the Estes family to store grain.

Graveyard

The small graveyard is located behind the house and contains four markers. The only legible marker is the grave of Arthur Dickerson who was born in 1831 and died in 1872. The marker contains a Masonic emblem and states that he was the son of John and Phoebe Dickerson. Arthur Dickerson was a friend and partner of Peyton A. Cooke, former owner of the Mitchell-Estes farmstead. In the 1850s, Arthur Dickerson and Peyton Cooke owned a farm next to the nominated property.

Besides Dickerson's grave, John White and his first wife Elizabeth were buried in this small graveyard. Because of the destruction of the graves by livestock, descendants of John White removed his marker to the Odd Fellows Cemetery in Smiths Grove. It is unknown if his body was exhumed.

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**Mitchell-Estes Farmstead
Warren County, Kentucky**

Statement of Significance

The Mitchell-Estes farmstead is historically significant and meets National Register Criterion A for its contributions to agricultural development in Warren County between 1892 and 1945. The nominated property is only one of the many 19th century farmsteads in Warren County. However, this farmstead reflects the local farming practices and traditions at the turn of the century. It is an excellent example of large, family owned and operated, agricultural complexes and exemplifies the farming patterns and rural lifestyle of Warren County. The period of significance 1892-1945 shows the growth of the farmstead to its present-day form and reflects the changing pattern of Warren County agriculture. The significant date 1892 shows the construction of the Mitchell-Estes homeplace and reflects the owners' commitment to agriculture.

Agriculture in Warren County, 1890-1945

To evaluate the historic significance of the Mitchell-Estes farmstead and to begin to understand the agricultural development of Warren County, agricultural statistics and similar documentation were reviewed. Source materials, such as the Pennyrile Cultural Landscape, the United States Census of Agriculture, and "The History of Bowling Green and Warren County," provided detailed information on agricultural development in Warren County. The review incorporates the period of significance 1892-1945 and will show how farms in Warren County, such as the Mitchell-Estes farmstead, were average to above-average farms. Tables 1 through 16 provide agricultural statistics for Warren County, Kentucky, and the Mammoth Cave subregion and show how Warren County farms were average and above average, agricultural complexes.

Factors, such as topography, climate, and regional economics, have influenced the size of farms and type of farming in Warren County over time. Throughout the period of significance, farming shifted more into a commercial enterprise. By the turn of the century, farmsteads were not primarily subsistence oriented; they were commercial agricultural complexes in a larger economic arena. These agricultural complexes became pillars of the rural historic landscape of Warren County and have contributed to its general economic growth.

In the late 19th century, agricultural complexes in Warren County flourished and often possessed similar components and designs. Often, the farmsteads were family owned and operated. "The system of general farming and cattle raising practiced in Warren County . . . [made] it necessary that the owner of the soil should live on it. . . ." (USDA 538). As a rule, Warren County farmsteads included frame dwellings and moderate yards and gardens surrounded by small, functional outbuildings and outlying fields for livestock grazing and crop cultivation.

In 1890, the average size of Warren County farms was 116 acres, and the average value was \$1,712. Approximately 42.6 percent of the farms reporting in the 1890 U.S. Census of Agriculture were 100 to 500 acres in size. While Warren County's farms were slightly smaller compared to the state average and the average size of Mammoth Cave subregional counties, the average value and percentage of farmland improved were higher. Between 1890 and 1910, the average farm size and value and the percentage of farmland improved changed. In 1910, the average farm size was 93 acres, a 20 percent decrease. However, the percentage of farmland increased to 73 percent, and the average value of land and buildings increased to \$3,166, a 46 percent increase. Thus, Warren County's farms held their value despite shrinkage in size.

With respect to the Mitchell-Estes farmstead, it is difficult to discern the actual value of the land and buildings and the percentage of farmland improved. However, using the sale price and information from deeds, clearly this farmstead was an above-average farm. In 1894, J.S. and A.G. Mitchell, father and son, purchased 388.45 acres, including the nominated property. They purchased the land and buildings for \$15,624.88. In 1900, the Mitchell farm fell into the category of farms 100-499 acres in size, which included approximately 40 percent of Warren County farms. Farms larger than the Mitchell farm included only 1.0 of the total farms. In 1910, the farm again was classed in farms sized 100 to 499 acres, which included 53 percent of the total Warren County farms. Only 1.0 percent of Warren County farms were larger than the Mitchell farm.

In 1920, the average size of Warren County farms decreased to 79 acres. Approximately 54 percent of the farms were 20 to 99 acres. However, the percentage of farmland improved increased to 78 percent, and the average value of the land and buildings was \$5,578. While Warren County farms continued to decrease in size, the average farm was better utilized and more valuable. Warren County exceeded both the state and Mammoth Cave subregional averages. Between 1930 and 1950, the average size of farms, percentage of farmland improved, and average value of land and buildings began to stabilize. In 1930,

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Mitchell-Estes Farmstead
Warren County, Kentucky

the average farm size was 83 acres, and 51 percent of the farms were between 20 and 99 acres. In 1950, the average farm in Warren County was 85 acres; however, only 39 percent of farms were 30 to 99 acres. During this twenty-year period, the percentage of farmland improved increased from 86 percent to 89 percent, and the average value of land and buildings increased 39 percent to \$8,241.

Between 1930 and 1950, documentation on the size and value of the Mitchell Brothers farm is limited. However, Warren County Property Valuation Records for 1950 show the Mitchell Brothers owning 366 acres in Warren County and its assessed value was \$18,500. However, the farm stretched into Edmonson County and included a total of 604 acres. In 1950, the Mitchell Brothers farm was classed in the "greater than 500 acre" category, which accounted for only 0.8 percent of the farms in Warren County. The farm machinery, implements, and stored crops valued \$2,000 in 1950, and their livestock was assessed at \$8,000. Throughout the period of significance, the Mitchell-Estes farmstead was larger and more valuable than the county, state, and Mammoth Cave subregional averages.

To establish the farming practices and land use of Warren County farms, a review of the United States Census of Agriculture and local histories was again undertaken. During the period of significance, the farming practices of Warren County also changed. Crop cultivation and raising cattle was no longer subsistence-oriented; farming was a profit-making business. Between 1890 and 1950, Warren County was leader among the Mammoth Cave subregional counties in the cultivation of crops and in livestock farming. In 1890 and 1900, Warren County was the largest producer of corn, hay, and wheat, and the third largest producer of tobacco. Also, the value of its crops exceeded other counties in the Mammoth Cave subregion. Besides field crops, Warren County was a leader in livestock farming. Among the subregional counties, its farms had the largest number of horses, mules, asses, cattle, and swine. The value of its livestock also exceeded other counties. Between 1900 and 1910, the production of corn and wheat decreased by 23 percent and 57 percent respectively. The production of tobacco and hay however increased. The emphasis on field crops lessened in the early 20th century, but livestock farming in Warren County strengthened. Between 1900 and 1910, the number of livestock on Warren County farms increased. By 1920, Warren County again was the leader in the production of corn, hay, and tobacco but was the lowest producer of wheat in the Mammoth Cave subregion.

During this period, comprehensive documentation for farming practices on the Mitchell-Estes farmstead is unavailable. However, the following excerpt from the December 19, 1907 special edition of The Times-Journal and Warren County Courier offers some view of the farming practices of A.G. Mitchell:

"All of his farm is in a high state of cultivation, and he is one of the largest producers of farm products in these counties. Besides being a grower of fine crops, he is a larger dealer in cattle and mules. He now has 120 head of cattle which he will winter and feed for the spring market, and he has at present some fifty or more head of mules."

Between 1930 and 1950, the main crops cultivated in Warren County were corn, tobacco, and hay. For instance, in 1945, approximately 74 percent of its farms harvested corn; 69 percent cultivated tobacco; and, 81 percent of the farms grew hay. By the mid-1900s, less than 10 percent of the farms cultivated wheat. While the field crop farming in Warren County was lessened after the turn of the century, its livestock farming and dairy cattle operations were enhanced. "At that time, Warren County was one of the leading livestock counties of Kentucky and the number one dairy county in the state, a status brought about in large part by the establishment of a condensed milk plant by the Pet Milk Company in Bowling Green" (Landmark 16). By 1945, 89 percent of Warren County farms raised horses, mules, or asses; 43 percent raised swine; and, 78 percent of its farms raised cattle. In particular, 77 percent of Warren County farms raised dairy cattle. "The probable average condition in the county [was] . . . a farm of about 60 acres producing around \$1,250 or less total value of product with 3.9 people to support" (Perkins 22).

During this period, the Mitchell-Estes farmstead became synonymous with Warren County dairy and livestock operations. According to Billy Joe Mitchell, his father and uncle were general farmers but concentrated on dairy farming. Joe and Jesse Mitchell were the first of the Warren County farmers to raise Holstein dairy cattle in this area. By the 1950s, the Mitchell Brothers

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**Mitchell-Estes Farmstead
Warren County, Kentucky**

farm included 50 dairy cattle, 200 beef cattle, and 2,000 hogs. The Mitchell Brothers also cultivated crops for livestock feed. The only cash crop for the Mitchell farm was 5,000 to 6,000 pounds of tobacco. In 1950, their livestock was valued at \$8,000.

Throughout the period of significance, the Mitchell-Estes farmstead exceeded the averages for livestock and related feeder crop production in Warren County and surrounding counties. Its proprietors were committed to livestock farming and the agricultural development of Warren County. Even after 1945, the Mitchell-Estes farmstead continued as an above-average farmstead, and its owners and operators were leaders in the agricultural industry. For instance, in 1957, Future Farmers of America named Billy Joe Mitchell "Star Farmer," and in 1960, Smith Mitchell was named "Outstanding Young Farmer."

Today the Mitchell-Estes farmstead continues as an agricultural complex and a family- owned and -operated farm. Its current owners, Earl and Jeannette Estes, are committed to livestock farming and the agricultural development of Warren County. Earl and Jeannette Estes and their sons own a majority of the original farmstead. On the nominated 93.64 acres, the Estes reside in the 1892 homeplace, raise beef cattle and two horses, and cultivate crops of alfalfa hay and corn. On adjacent property, the Estes and their family cultivate crops and raise dairy cattle.

Integrity Considerations

Today the Mitchell-Estes farmstead reflects the spatial organizations, physical components, and historic associations originally affiliated with the farm. The homeplace has been renovated; many of the original outbuildings have been destroyed or demolished; and, the property has been subdivided. Nonetheless, the historic integrity of the 93.64 acres proposed for nomination and its components has been retained. The changes to the property merely exemplify the development of Warren County agriculture and the trends of farming during the period of significance. The feeling and character of the farmstead have been maintained. To further assess the historic integrity of the Mitchell-Estes farmstead, all seven integrity factors – location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association – were examined.

The location, setting, and design of the farmstead remain intact and represent the structure of Warren County farms in the late 19th century and early 20th century. The location and setting of Warren County farms were influenced by topography, soil fertility, climate, and accessibility. The Mitchell-Estes farmstead is in northern Warren County where agriculture remains the primary land use and where the landscape is suitable for agriculture. After the turn of the century, the farmstead included many agricultural outbuildings but most were destroyed or demolished. However, the present agricultural outbuildings and silo are in the locations of the original outbuildings and do not detract from the visual and functional relationships of the farmstead. The setting of the Mitchell-Estes farmstead also reflects the visual and functional relationships. The original farmstead was subdivided but little non-agricultural development has occurred. The primary land uses of the adjacent tracts are agricultural and single family residential and little alterations have been made to the setting.

The design of the farmstead was established before the construction of the homeplace in 1892. This design evolved over time and in response to the needs of the inhabitants and operators. While many agricultural buildings have been removed, the proximity of the house, the remaining agricultural outbuildings, silo, and graveyard exhibit the association of family and farm. The design of the farmstead was also a response to topography and accessibility. The farmhouse faces a county road and is surrounded by pastures and fields.

While the homeplace and outbuildings have been altered, the historic materials and workmanship are still evident. The simple detail and use of poplar wood and uncut limestone/fieldstone exhibit the typical workmanship and relationships of the farming community.

Because the design, location, setting, materials, and workmanship of the farmstead have been maintained, the Mitchell-Estes farmstead still evokes a sense of past time and place. The layout and construction of the agricultural outbuildings and homeplace reflect a typical, 19th century farmstead. The addition and demolition of agricultural outbuildings reflect the response to changing agricultural needs. This farmstead has contributed to the development of a larger rural historic landscape and reflects the tradition of family and farm.

The relationship between the Mitchell-Estes farmstead and the development of Warren County agriculture is clearly discernible. While the original farm has been subdivided, the nominated property has continually been used as an agricultural complex. The Mitchell family owned and operated the farmstead for 97 years and was committed to the agricultural

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Mitchell-Estes Farmstead
Warren County, Kentucky

development of Warren County. The homeplace, agricultural outbuildings and structures, and the graveyard exemplify the importance of family owned and operated farms in the development of Warren County agricultural. Not only have the occupants of the homeplace lived on the land; they worked the soil. This farm clearly demonstrates a successful, late 19th century farmstead.

Historical Development of the Mitchell-Estes Farmstead

John ("Jack") White (1774-1848) moved from Manassas, Virginia to Warren County in the 1790s. According to the inventory of Mr. White's estate, he was a wealthy landowner and slaveholder. White's land acquisitions included several thousand acres in Warren, Edmonson, and Barren Counties. His homestead stretched from Dripping Springs in Edmonson County to Merry Oaks in Barren County. A minute portion of his landholdings included the nominated 93.64 acres. Upon this portion of land, Mr. White constructed a two-story-brick home, many outbuildings, gardens, and a graveyard. Mr. White's first wife Elizabeth was buried in the family plot. Subsequently, Mr. White was buried in the small graveyard.

After the death of Mr. White, his adopted daughter Nancy White Cooke inherited the home and adjoining acreage, including the nominated tract. Nancy Cooke died in 1852 and bequeathed 2,391 acres to three sons, Peyton A., William H., and John White Cooke. Upon the attainment of legal age and the preparation of deeds, this large landholding was divided among the three sons. Peyton A. Cooke received two tracts of land. The first tract consisted of 265 1/2 acres, including the nominated property. The second tract was an adjacent tract and consisted of 411 1/2 acres.

On October 22, 1886, Peyton and Mattie Cooke sold the 265.5 acres to J.S. and Alonso G. Mitchell, father and son, for \$10,620. In 1892, the Mitchells destroyed the two-story, brick home, except the kitchen and storage areas. They constructed the existing two-story, Queen Anne style farmhouse in front of the remaining White dwelling. In 1894, the Mitchell Brothers purchased an adjoining 122.95 acre farm known as the "L.A. Hawks farm." In 1901, J.S. Mitchell died and willed the farm to his son, A.G. Mitchell. After the death of A.G. Mitchell, his sons, Jesse and Joe Mitchell, acquired the property. The Mitchell Brothers ran a successful farm with the assistance of Joe's sons, Smith and Billy Joe Mitchell. After the death of Joe Mitchell in June, 1960, the farm was equally divided among his sons. Billy Joe Mitchell received a 227.58 acre tract that included the nominated property. In February 1983, the current owners, Earl and Jeannette Estes purchased the 93.64 acre tract at auction. In addition, they purchased three of the five tracts originally associated with the farmstead.

Summary

The Mitchell-Estes farmstead exhibits the agricultural development and trends of Warren County. The nominated property is only a portion of the original farmstead, but its collection of built features and fields exemplifies an above-average farm and related farming practices during the period of significance. The farm typified the typical Warren County farm in late 19th century and was representative of the family-owned and -operated farmsteads. The spatial organization, location, materials, and setting represent Warren County farms during the period of significance. J.S. and A.G. Mitchell began the Mitchell farm ownership, and their descendants continued and expanded the agricultural operations. The economy of Bowling Green-Warren County has changed dramatically since the turn of the century, and its focus has become more manufacturing-oriented. Agriculture is still a major part of the economy but fewer individuals possess the large agricultural complexes. The Mitchell-Estes farmstead conveys the character and feeling of late 19th century farmsteads.

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Mitchell-Estes Farmstead
Warren County, Kentucky

Table 1
Number of Farms
Kentucky & Mammoth Cave Subregional Counties
1890-1950

	1890	1900	1910	1920	1930	1945	1950
Kentucky	179,264	234,667	259,185	270,626	246,499	238,501	218,476
Barren County	2,766	3,321	4,493	4,392	4,260	3,014	4,292
Butler County	1,907	2,223	2,511	2,540	2,150	1,827	1,910
Edmonson County	1,308	1,631	1,892	1,974	2,041	1,497	1,509
Grayson County	2,669	3,125	3,178	3,362	2,864	2,411	2,733
Hart County	2,246	2,861	3,028	3,526	3,075	2,573	2,788
Warren County	2,614	3,145	3,448	3,958	3,683	3,606	3,765

Source: United States Census of Agriculture, 1890-1950.

Table 2
Average Acreage of Farms
Kentucky & Mammoth Cave Subregional Counties
1890-1950

	1890	1900	1910	1920	1930	1945	1950
Kentucky	119	94	86	80	81	83	89
Barren County	101	86	66	67	68	92	71
Butler County	121	104	97	97	106	116	117
Edmonson County	118	92	98	83	86	85	84
Grayson County	103	93	93	88	94	105	102
Hart County	101	84	81	74	75	88	84
Warren County	116	99	93	79	83	85	85

Source: United States Census of Agriculture, 1890-1950.

Table 3
Percentage of Farmland Improved
Kentucky & Mammoth Cave Subregional Counties
1890-1950

	1890	1900	1910	1920	1930	1945	1950
Kentucky	55.0	63.0	65.0	65.0	76.0	80.0	80.0
Barren County	63.0	75.0	80.0	75.0	85.0	92.0	89.0
Butler County	43.0	53.0	56.0	55	68.0	84.0	73.0
Edmonson County	37.0	52.0	44.0	55.0	68.0	77.0	74.0
Grayson County	50.0	60.0	65.0	67.0	78.0	81.0	81.0
Hart County	58.0	66.0	69.0	66.0	73.0	72.0	84
Warren County	65.0	71.0	73.0	78.0	86.0	90.0	89.0

Source: United States Census of Agriculture, 1890-1950.

Table 4
Average Value of Land and Buildings (in dollars)
Kentucky & Mammoth Cave Subregional Counties
1890-1950

	1890	1900	1910	1920	1930	1945	1950
Kentucky	1,241	1,628	2,452	4,823	3,535	4,259	7,192
Barren County	1,152	1,073	2,006	3,863	3,666	5,147	6,340
Butler County	681	582	950	1,958	1,712	1,856	3,395
Edmonson County	572	497	950	1,609	2,164	2,590	3,670
Grayson County	511	609	1,124	2,168	1,863	2,240	3,561
Hart County	1,004	1,044	3,800	3,267	2,626	3,530	5,551
Warren County	1,712	1,887	3,166	5,578	5,018	5,285	8,241

Source: United States Census of Agriculture, 1890-1950.

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Mitchell-Estes Farmstead
Warren County, Kentucky

Table 5
Average Value of Farm Implements and Machinery (in dollars)*
Kentucky & Mammoth Cave Subregional Counties
1890-1950

* Based on total number of farms

	1890	1900	1910	1920	1930	1945
Kentucky	61	65	81	179	148	295
Barren County	54	56	69	170	174	376
Butler County	36	39	52	114	94	227
Edmonson County	28	31	42	86	82	201
Grayson County	36	42	63	114	81	215
Hart County	38	48	69	132	114	244
Warren County	69	77	107	218	192	386

Source: United States Census of Agriculture, 1890-1950.

Table 6
Percentage of Farms < 100 acres, 100-500 Acres, and > 500 Acres
Mammoth Cave Subregional Counties
1890-1950

	1890	1900	1910	1920	1930	1945	1950
Kentucky							
< 100 Acres	55.9	66.1	69.8	70.3	70.8	69.9	68.3
100-500 Acres	41.7	54.5	29.6	28.9	28.5	29.2	30.7
> 500 Acres	2.4	1.3	0.6	0.8	0.7	0.9	1.0
Barren County							
< 100 Acres	59.8	66.7	77.5	76.8	76.5	64.3	75.6
100-500 Acres	39.4	32.9	22.3	23.0	23.2	35.2	24.0
> 500 Acres	0.8	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.5
Butler County							
< 100 Acres	48.7	57.2	60.4	60.7	56.6	51.1	52.9
100-500 Acres	49.8	41.6	38.8	38.6	42.7	47.5	46.0
> 500 Acres	1.5	1.2	0.8	0.7	0.7	1.4	1.1
Edmonson County							
< 100 Acres	57.0	61.3	68.0	67.5	68.3	68.1	70.1
100-500 Acres	41.6	36.3	31.0	31.9	30.8	31.0	29.3
> 500 Acres	2.0	0.6	1.0	0.6	0.9	0.9	0.6
Grayson County							
< 100 Acres	57.0	63.1	61.8	64.5	60.8	54.2	57.6
100-500 Acres	42.6	36.3	37.8	35.2	38.8	45.2	42.1
> 500 Acres	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.4	1.4	0.3
Hart County							
< 100 Acres	58.3	67.7	67.0	72.1	72.3	62.7	68.0
100-500 Acres	41.2	31.9	32.6	27.7	27.5	37.2	31.1
> 500 Acres	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.3
Warren County							
< 100 Acres	55.9	62.5	65.9	71.3	69.3	69.0	69.5
100-500 Acres	42.6	36.3	53.1	28.1	30.1	30.3	29.6
> 500 Acres	1.5	1.2	1.0	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.9

Source: United States Census of Agriculture, 1890-1950.

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Mitchell-Estes Farmstead
Warren County, Kentucky

Table 7
Bushels of Corn Harvested for Grain
Kentucky & Mammoth Cave Subregional Counties
1890-1950

	1890	1900	1909	1919	1929	1944	1950
Kentucky	78434847	73974220	83348024	71518484	61008387	58766874	71009754
Barren County	1185521	1033140	1132820	801041	1123474	967575	1558368
Butler County	653622	736720	607823	645523	638195	650333	716568
Edmonson County	378763	420580	403469	439368	472688	265971	371235
Grayson County	848425	869440	896213	782815	591740	704757	901291
Hart County	856650	839360	683839	597734	581740	635754	893485
Warren County	1885713	1415180	1381442	1069325	1314942	1073182	1636291

Source: United States Census of Agriculture, 1890-1950.

Table 8
Pounds of Tobacco
Kentucky & Mammoth Cave Subregional Counties
1890-1950

	1890	1900	1909	1920	1929	1944	1950
Kentucky	221880303	314288050	398482301	506150592	376648533	43544791	71009754
Barren County	2465744	2249200	8652046	8008677	8956028	10518830	1558368
Butler County	263632	*	1715709	1908513	3626243	789451	7165680
Edmonson County	187519	92050	550512	1627733	917918	265971	371235
Grayson County	296910	286207	2098381	1527148	1335936	1971832	901291
Hart County	2737117	2448040	6273573	5962513	5456032	9838049	893485
Warren County	1680346	1917190	5252497	9734266	6551203	6804037	1636291

Source: United States Census of Agriculture, 1890-1950.

Table 9
Tons of Hay
Kentucky & Mammoth Cave Subregional Counties
1890-1950

	1890	1900	1909	1920	1929	1944	1950
Kentucky	652995	630864	957241	2123490	1306228	1603411	2113813
Barren County	6394	4304	13260	34942	21691	28123	46833
Butler County	2906	3501	7308	17669	9793	52870	16886
Edmonson County	812	924	4470	10615	5510	14041	26666
Grayson County	3619	2447	7141	26242	9718	7909	13891
Hart County	2151	2447	6207	28887	6310	16184	29450
Warren County	11342	6506	16175	36336	32225	37802	67058

Source: United States Census of Agriculture, 1890-1950.

Table 10
Tons of Wheat
Kentucky & Mammoth Cave Subregional Counties
1890-1950

	1890	1900	1909	1920	1929	1944	1950
Kentucky	10707462	14264500	8739260	10375129	2483443	7253568	4490750
Barren County	88469	118300	89635	129744	20755	81246	43654
Butler County	33810	36550	12779	43947	41542	32291	9389
Edmonson County	60101	29570	79897	19026	1471	16437	11508
Grayson County	67258	119940	30600	104335	12514	52124	53176
Hart County	67258	112360	30600	48184	5050	8322	5140
Warren County	165200	281810	121023	13619	37651	156766	54121

Source: United States Census of Agriculture, 1890-1950.

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Mitchell-Estes Farmstead
Warren County, Kentucky

Table 11
Value of Harvested Crops
Kentucky & Mammoth Cave Subregional Counties
1890-1950

	1890	1900	1910	1920	1930	1944	1950
Kentucky	65948485	102138255	138973107	347338888	174660173	362144800	359952003
Barren County	674240	1302458	2474564	4504934	3672842	7006947	7367243
Butler County	396660	723134	879896	2341937	976460	1770696	1842921
Edmonson County	214990	403204	580156	1592618	931358	1304934	1455752
rayson County	517560	818881	1259931	2698494	1075320	2587957	2821509
Hart County	571940	947794	1596106	3198577	2047425	4624164	4647437
Warren County	1009050	1543059	2101502	5979281	3014158	6149413	6922718

Source: United States Census of Agriculture, 1890-1950.

Table 12
Number of Horses, Asses, and Mules
Kentucky & Mammoth Cave Subregional Counties
1890-1950

	1890	1910	1920	1930	1944	1950
Kentucky	553005	672754	678189	500205	421563	375834
Barren County	8285	11011	10687	7532	7835	7176
Butler County	4498	6630	7109	5018	4017	3653
Edmonson County	2239	3436	4088	3172	2522	2531
Grayson County	5725	8622	9214	6394	5115	4942
Hart County	5561	7450	7855	5887	5600	4956
Warren County	10920	11431	11510	8069	4246	6239

* The 1900 U.S. Census of Agriculture was unavailable at Western Kentucky University.
Source: United States Census of Agriculture, 1890-1950.

Table 13
Number of Swine
Kentucky & Mammoth Cave Subregional Counties
1890-1950

	1890	1910	1920	1929	1944	1950
Kentucky	2036746	1491816	1504431	1034593	1048113	1530337
Barren County	27420	14763	20651	15702	15394	33793
Butler County	20900	13205	16889	7718	9809	15501
Edmonson County	13883	6822	8654	5296	4209	6642
Grayson County	28416	17354	14991	6871	8560	17131
Hart County	22262	10625	12021	7218	7324	14779
Warren County	42747	25398	28559	26546	20172	39749

* The 1900 U.S. Census of Agriculture was unavailable at Western Kentucky University.
Source: United States Census of Agriculture, 1890-1950.

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Mitchell-Estes Farmstead
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Table 14
Number of Cattle
Kentucky & Mammoth Cave Subregional Counties
1890-1950

	1890	1910	1920	1929	1944	1950
Kentucky	1066091	1000937	1093453	1086310	1417585	1651658
Barren County	13760	3321	14816	17892	24283	34363
Butler County	10098	7560	9922	7002	8048	10874
Edmonson County	6861	1631	1892	1974	7938	9164
Grayson County	13238	11468	13570	9784	249390	17382
Hart County	11976	10463	12935	14237	18827	22147
Warren County	18781	14102	15309	23970	28812	35740

* The 1900 U.S. Census of Agriculture was unavailable at Western Kentucky University.

Source: United States Census of Agriculture, 1890-1950.

Table 15
Number of Dairy Cattle
Kentucky & Mammoth Cave Subregional Counties
1890-1950

	1890	1910	1920	1929	1944	1950
Kentucky	364516	409834	659794	522348	796548	636387
Barren County	4846	5464	8841	8696	15377	17027
Butler County	3550	3519	6670	3322	6665	5110
Edmonson County	2237	2585	4442	3716	4972	4478
Grayson County	4793	5143	7594	5020	7978	7656
Hart County	4094	4288	7513	7099	11510	32080
Warren County	5268	5497	9283	12263	17037	16379

* The 1900 U.S. Census of Agriculture was unavailable at Western Kentucky University.

Source: United States Census of Agriculture, 1890-1950.

Table 16
Value of Livestock
Kentucky & Mammoth Cave Subregional Counties
1890-1950

	1890	1900	1910	1920	1929	1944	1950
Kentucky	70924400	73739106	117486662	148563339	121617856	160584217	257415282
Barren County	895450	888139	*	2156252	1906349	2631438	5280960
Butler County	470120	549439	939195	1318852	916303	1259696	1847698
Edmonson County	262830	310641	543813	834935	688781	832863	1376935
Grayson County	556490	717620	1247211	1653201	1245284	1651837	292363
Hart County	610630	713511	1177558	1437127	1363811	1958784	3342704
Warren County	1310630	1003761	1971851	2429426	2214379	2888545	5443885

* Data on Barren County was illegible in the 1910 U.S. Census of Agriculture.

Source: United States Census of Agriculture, 1890-1950.

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**Mitchell-Estes Farmstead
Warren County, Kentucky**

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at the intersection of the Smiths Grove-Rocky Hill Road and the Smiths Grove-Dripping Springs Road; thence with the Smiths Grove-Dripping Springs Road, the following courses and distances:

North 14 degrees 42 minutes East 1139.45 feet; thence North 13 degrees 01 minutes East 494.31 feet; thence North 01 degrees 21 minutes East 80.22 feet; thence North 23 degrees 14 minutes West 136.44 feet; thence North 11 degrees 10 minutes West 104.69 feet; thence North 09 degrees 24 minutes East 153.99 feet; thence North 16 degrees 16 minutes East 210.69 feet; thence North 15 degrees 11 minutes East 1056.93 feet; thence North 28 degrees 18 minutes East 59.7 feet; thence North 55 degrees 20 minutes East 45.55 feet; thence North 82 degrees 07 minutes East 76.93 feet; thence South 72 degrees 12 minutes East 689.62 feet; thence leaving Smiths Grove-Dripping Springs Road and running South 76 degrees 06 minutes East 190.16 feet and South 89 degrees 02 minutes East 140.14 feet to an iron pin in the line of Earl Loyd Estes; thence with the line of Earl Loyd Estes; thence with the line of Earl Loyd Estes, the following courses and distances: South 13 degrees 51 minutes West 1241.42 feet; thence South 13 degrees 51 minutes West 654.30 feet; thence South 32 degrees 37 minutes East 37.31 feet; thence South 72 degrees 37 minutes East 121.16 feet; thence South 13 degrees 03 minutes West 1417.90 feet to the Smiths Grove-Rocky Hill Road; thence North 76 degrees 31 minutes West 1243.39 feet to the point of beginning. Containing 93.64 acres, more or less. (*Warren County Deed Book 515, pp. 521-522*).

Verbal Boundary Justification

The boundary of the Mitchell-Estes farmstead was determined by the present-day parcel containing the significant historic components identified on the site plan. Today the farm is divided into five tracts and owned separately. The homeplace, silo, three outbuildings, graveyard, and 93.64 acres were maintained in one tract. While the other four tracts are intact, they do not represent the historical significance of the Mitchell-Estes farmstead nor the agricultural development of Warren County. The nominated property represents the late 19th century agricultural complexes and shows the visual and functional interrelationships of its components. The setting of this late 19th century farmstead is intact and maintains its historical integrity.

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Mitchell-Estes Farmstead
Warren County, Kentucky

PHOTOGRAPH LOG

Janet L. Johnston took the following photographs. All negatives are located at her residence, 1151 Benson Avenue, Bowling Green, Kentucky 42104. Photographs #1 through 9 were taken Saturday, October 8, 1994 at the Mitchell-Estes Farmstead at 1706 Upper Smiths Grove Road, Smiths Grove, Warren County, Kentucky. Photographs #10 through 19 were taken on Sunday, June 18, 1995 at the same location.

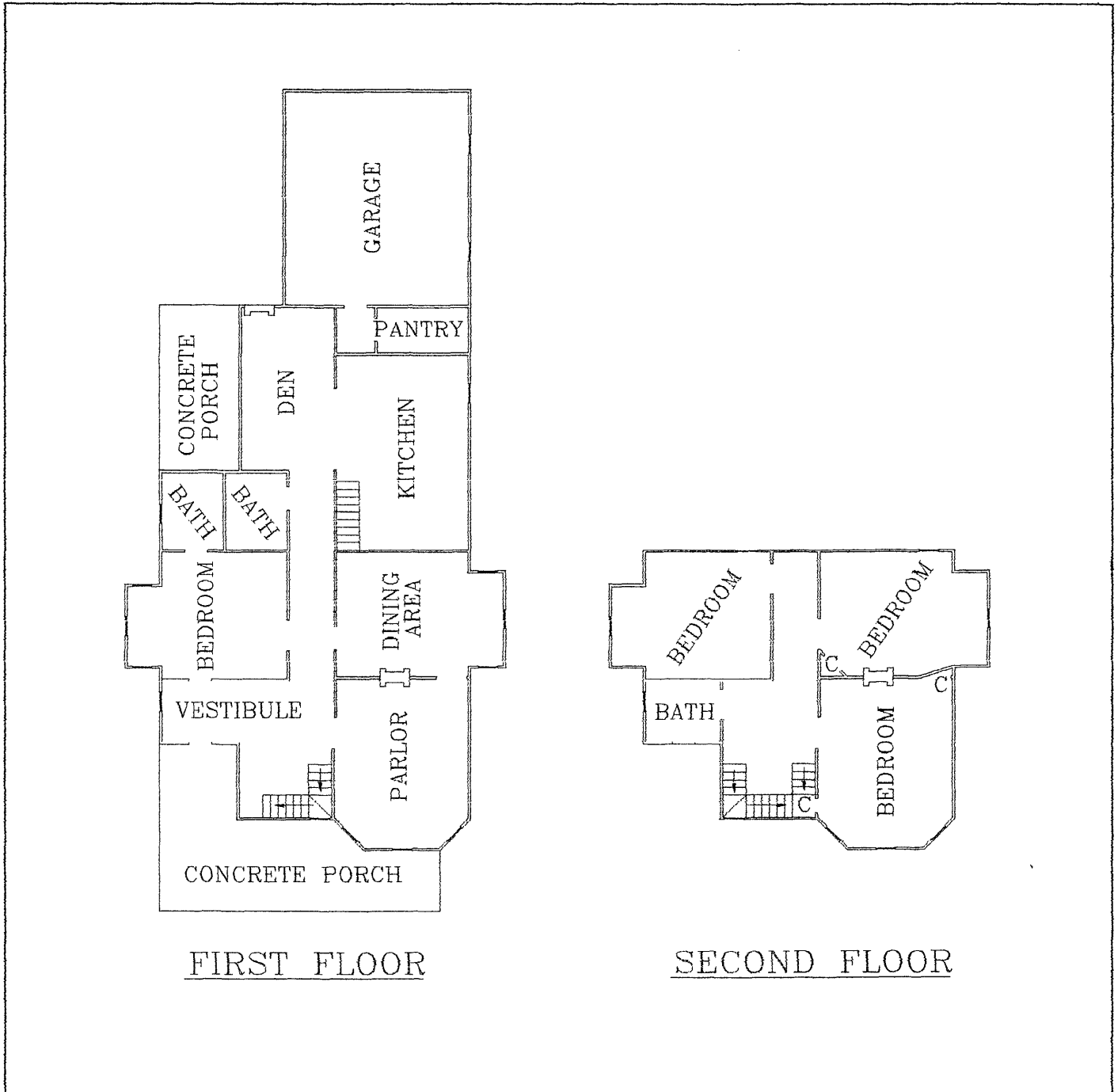
Photo #	Description
#1	This photograph shows the west/front facade of the Mitchell-Estes farmhouse. The uncut, limestone/fieldstone wall is shown in the bottom section of the photograph. The camera direction is east.
#2	The west/front and south facades are shown in this photograph. The south facade features bay windows. The photograph also shows the rear addition. The camera direction is northeast.
#3	This photograph shows an east angle of the front-facing gable. The camera direction is southeast and shows the wall, porch columns and front-facing gable.
#4	This photograph shows the front facade and porch. The front door is shown on the left side of the photograph. The camera direction is southeast.
#5	This photograph shows the south facade of the house and the rear addition. The camera direction is northeast.
#6	The north facade, which features bay windows, is shown in this photograph. In addition, the photograph shows the wraparound verandah that extends from the north recessed side of the house to the front facing gable. The camera direction is southeast.
#7	The front door and porch column are featured in this photograph. The front door is a typical Queen Anne double pane door. The camera direction is east.
#8	These Queen Anne sash window features smaller stained glass panes surrounding a large clear pane. The window surrounds are yellow poplar wood. The picture is taken from a southeast direction.
#9	This 7' x 3' sash window is located on the bay of the front-facing gable. The camera direction is east.
#10	Three of the small tombstones are shown. The camera is perpendicular to the ground, and the direction is west.
#11	This photograph shows the small graveyard. The direction is northeast.
#12	The silo is shown in this photograph. The direction of the camera is east.
#13	This photograph features the horse barn. The direction of the camera is southwest.
#14	The upper barn is shown in this photograph. It is a side drive crib with a side shed. The direction of the camera is northeast.
#15	This is a smaller side drive crib, and it also features a side shed. The direction of the camera is northeast.
#16	This panoramic photograph shows the south side of the farm. The direction is northeast.
#17	This panoramic photograph was taken at the southwest corner of the property. The direction of the camera is northeast.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Mitchell-Estes Farmstead
Warren County, Kentucky

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

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MITCHELL/ESTES HOMEPLACE



1" = 20'
K. CROWE

Mitchell-Estes Farmstead
Warren County, Kentucky
Aerial Photograph #79

City-County Planning Commission of Warren County

Date: January 1995

Scale: 1" = 400'

Nominated property is highlighted.

