

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

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**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received MAR 27 1986

date entered 05/01/86

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

Jefferson County Multiple Resource Area Addition:
historic Tyler Settlement Rural Historic District

and/or common

2. Location

multiple addresses roughly bounded by Southern Railroad,
street & number Taylorville Road, and Jeffersontown City not for publication

limits
city, town Jeffersontown * vicinity of

state Kentucky code 21 county Jefferson code

3. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use |
|--|--|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district | <input type="checkbox"/> public | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> private | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | <u>na</u> in process | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government |
| | <u>na</u> being considered | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> military |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> museum |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> park |
| | | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> religious |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> other: |

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple owners

street & number n/a

city, town n/a vicinity of state n/a

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Jefferson County Clerk

street & number Jefferson County Courthouse

city, town Louisville state Kentucky

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky
has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1979 federal state county local

depository for survey records Kentucky Heritage Council

city, town Frankfort state Kentucky

7. Description

| | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| Condition | | Check one | Check one |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered | <input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed | | |

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Tyler Settlement Rural Historic District contains three Tyler farmsteads established in the last quarter of the eighteenth century. It lies in eastern Jefferson County approximately one mile east of Jeffersontown, Kentucky, on the north side of Taylorsville Road, a principal east-west route across the country. The district contains the Tyler-Sweeney Farm (JF 260, Illustration # TS-1), the Robert Tyler Farm (JF 259, Illustration # RT-1), the Moses Tyler-Presley Tyler Farm (JF 298, Illustration # MT-2), and a historic transportation system (JF 689, Illustration # TT-6, Maps # 2 and 9). The roads and trails that interconnected the farms of the Tylers and facilitated their social and mercantile interaction with points outside the district are major elements. The houses and their immediate environs, including in most instances outbuildings for each of the three farms, have already been listed in the National Register of Historic Places as part of a Multiple Resources Area nomination for Jefferson County. The intent of this section is to document and describe the threads of continuity and physical similarities among the three historic farms--not only for the buildings contained on the farms but for the entire historic rural landscape--to justify expansion of the existing listings from three individual house listings to a rural historic district.

The district contains approximately 600 acres of farmland, former farmland, and woodland with primarily Crider-Corydon soil associations, generally level to sloping (0-6%) soils on broad ridges and steep shallow soils over limestone on hillsides. Its soil composition makes it well-suited to agriculture since it has good topsoil. Limestone outcroppings and sinkholes reflect the character of the district's underlying geology. A high percentage of land in the district is arable and cleared, with wooded areas being primarily deciduous (Illustration # MT-1). Approximately one-third of the district is wooded today;¹ the percentage of woodland to cleared land is more stable than it appears upon first examination. An examination of 1947 Soil Conservation Service aerial photographs reveals that about one-third of the land area was also wooded at that time.²

8. Significance

| Period | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below | | | |
|---|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> law | <input type="checkbox"/> science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> economics | <input type="checkbox"/> literature | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> social/ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> theater |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |

Specific dates: 1790-1930 Builder/Architect: Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Tyler Settlement Rural Historic District is significant in terms of settlement patterns and practices, architecture, and transportation and reflects the Tyler family's settlement and development of this part of Jefferson County from the late eighteenth century through the first part of the twentieth century. Edward Tyler came to Jefferson County (which was then still part of Virginia) from Virginia in 1779 or 1780 with his sons Edward, Junior; Moses; and William; and with Robert Tyler, who is thought to be a nephew. The Tylers were early settlers of eastern Jefferson County, owned extensive land holdings, and were prominent in the agriculture, politics and social affairs of the county. Familial patterns of migration and settlement are apparent in the district, with members of a family establishing farms in close proximity, or the head of a family leaving or granting portions of his land to his children for their own farmsteads. Settlement of the Tyler land was also a part of the late eighteenth-century phenomenon of land acquisition by means of military warrants, treasury warrants, and settlement and pre-emption warrants granted by Virginia.

Significant patterns of eighteenth-and nineteenth-century architecture, rural life and farming practices in Jefferson County are evident in the three farm clusters which contain a characteristic arrangement of dwellings and unattached outbuildings. The Moses Tyler-Presley Tyler Farm (JF 298), for example, is one of the best preserved farm complexes in Jefferson County. The quality of stonework in the district, the transitional vernacular and stylistic associations of the two nineteenth-century brick houses, and the surviving examples of log construction also add to the significance of the district. The cemetery is a major design component in the district because of its size--unusually large compared to other nineteenth-century family cemeteries--and the craftsmanship of its exceptional stonework.

The surviving remnants of the internal historic road system are significant because they reflect the relationship of these three family farms and their links with other areas. Transportation routes in the county were eastward-oriented

9. Major Bibliographical References

1. Thomas, Samuel W. "Blackacre: Research Reminiscences and Recommendations for its Reuse as Part of Blackacre Nature Preserve," 1982, unpublished paper."
2. Bergmann, J.T., Map of Jefferson County, 1858.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 606
Quadrangle name Jeffersontown, Kentucky Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

| | | | | | | | |
|---|------|------------|-------------|---|------|-----------|---------------|
| A | 1 6 | 62 7 2 10 | 4 2 28 6 80 | B | 1 6 | 6 30 0 00 | 4 2 2 9 0 4 5 |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing | | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| C | 1 6 | 62 9 98 10 | 4 2 27 4 65 | D | 1 6 | 6 27 8 20 | 4 2 27 1 90 |
| E | | | | F | | | |
| G | | | | H | | | |

Verbal boundary description and justification

Beginning at the southwest corner of parcel 46-292 (north and adjacent to the northern boundary of Taylorsville Road), proceeding north along its western property line and the western property line of parcels

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| state | code | county | code |

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Douglas Stern with Land and Community Associates
organization Jefferson County Office of Historic Preservation and Archives date _____
street & number 100 Fiscal Court Building telephone (502) 625-5761
(804) 295-3880
city or town Louisville state Kentucky

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

David L. Mays

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date March 20, 1986

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

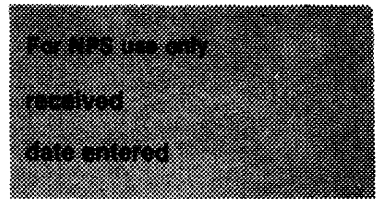
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Ownership List

Erma and Omar Baker
3507 Tucker Station Road
Louisville, KY 40299

Charles H. and Bernice M. Bowlds
20 Canterbury Drive
Louisville, KY 40220

Gary D. and Lori L. Burress
3110 Tucker Station Road
Louisville, KY 40299

Robert Wesley and Diane T. Crenshaw
3203 Tucker Station Road
Louisville, KY 40299

Norma Sharon Doll
9517 Fairground Rd.
Louisville, KY 40291

George K. and Elise Eisenbach
12613 Taylorsville Road
Louisville, KY 40299

Elmer and Louise Vonder Espt
3505 Tucker Station Road
Louisville, KY 40299

George J. Eisenbach Jr.
11502 Rehl Road
Louisville, KY 40299

A.J. and Ida First
12515 Taylorsville Road
Louisville, KY 40299

Richard L. and Patricia W. Harris
12109 Taylorsville Road
Louisville, KY 40299

Alfred and Elizabeth Hoerth
Box 13
Fisherville, KY 40026

Federal Communications
Corporation of Louisville
115 Eastern Ave.
East Providence, RI 02914

Owen and Carol Nation
12523 Taylorsville, Road
Louisville, KY 40299

Donald L. Neal
John P. Clark
Joseph M. McMillian Jr.
c/o Donald Neal
7906 S. Preston
Louisville, KY 40219

Ben and Ollie Neal
3210 Tucker Station Road
Louisville, KY 40299

Clarence J. and Mary L. Nichter
12206 Rehl Road
Louisville, KY 40299

William H. Norris, Sr.
12603 Taylorsville Road
Louisville, KY 40299

Jimmie L. Noe
4010 Dupont Circle
Louisville, KY 40207

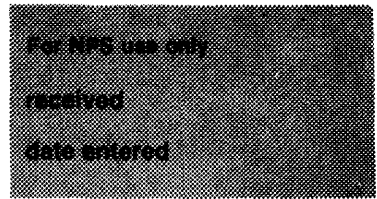
Herbert Ray and Lois Stout
3100 Tucker Station Road
Louisville, KY 40299

Camilla H. Stout
3110 Tucker Station Road
Louisville, KY 40299

Larry Wayne Taylor
3403 Tucker Station Road
Louisville, KY 40299

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Walter L. and Geraldine E. Jewell
3311 Tucker Station Road
Louisville, KY 40299

Kentucky Nature Preserves
407 Broadway
Frankfort, KY 40601

Sharon S. King
3202 Tucker Station Road
Louisville, KY 40299

John C. Maas Enterprises
3007 Tucker Station Road
Louisville, KY 40299

Mary J. Hundley
Vickie M. Watson
3509 Tucker Station Road
Louisville, KY 40299

John A. Thompson
3511 Tucker Station Road
Louisville, KY 40299

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It is likely that even during the most intense periods of cultivation during the nineteenth century that one-fifth to one-fourth of the district's land was left in forest. Steep elevations in a number of places and the numerous springs and streams interlacing the district probably account for this relatively high amount of woodland historically.

The area lies generally in the eastern watershed of Chenoweth Run, a major southward-flowing tributary of Floyd's Fork of the Salt River. Several springs and intermittent westward-flowing streams in the district empty into Chenoweth Run. Some small streams flow eastwardly to Pope Lick, also a tributary of Floyd's Fork. The land area was originally organized into large farms of 300-500 or more acres each. Today, the Moses Tyler-Presley Tyler Farm (JF 298), known as Blackacre, is the largest of the farms at 170 acres.

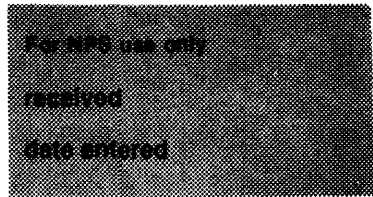
Overall Patterns of Landscape Spatial Organization

Basic historic patterns of landscape spatial organization are still evident in the Tyler Settlement Rural Historic District's road systems, field patterns, and the physical interrelationship among the three historic farm complexes. These patterns today remain remarkably similar to those established by the Tylers in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

The individual farm remains the primary organizing element of the district. Although the acreages of the Tyler farms have varied over time, the largely self-sufficient late eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century farms were in the 95 acre to 500 acre range. The Tylers acquired their land primarily as treasury warrants (Map # 3); transactions among the Tylers themselves included both land purchases and gifts (Map # 4). Edward Tyler's original warrant was slightly in excess of 500 acres; the smallest known Tyler acreage was a 95 acre parcel transferred to a son Absolom Tyler by Moses Tyler in 1819. Between 1800 and 1834, for example, Moses Tyler's taxable land varied between a high of 450 acres in 1801 to a low of 230 acres between 1823 and

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1826.³ Just as Edward Tyler, Senior, had divided his land among his sons and nephew, major reductions in acreage reflect transfers to other family members. The adult sons of Moses Tyler farmed distinct portions of their father's land deeded, sold, or leased to them while still residing on their father's property. This practice occurred both during the father's lifetime and that of their brother, Presley, who received the largest land parcel of the father's land in exchange for taking care of the elderly Tyler. According to federal census records, Presley Tyler owned 350 acres in 1850--200 of which were considered improved fields suitable for human habitation, animal storage, crop cultivation, and grazing.⁴

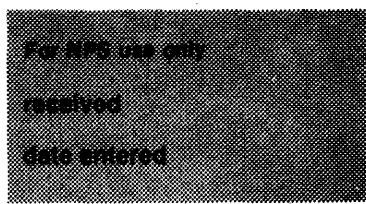
Regardless of the size of individual ownerships, the character of the land throughout the Tyler period was derived from the large cropped, grazed, and forested areas surrounding the three historic house sites. The settlement imposed on this land by the Tyler family brought about major changes in the landscape--changes that established the spatial organization that still characterizes the landscape today. Although some details of the landscape have changed in the twentieth century, as they did throughout the entire period of settlement, the defining land patterns of the district remain unchanged (Map # 3).

The district forms a rough triangle with each of the three Tyler family farm clusters located more or less equidistant (.6 to .8 miles) from the others. The Tyler family cemetery (Illustration # TS-8), where most members of the Tyler family are buried, is sited within the triangle closest to the homestead of Edward Tyler, the family patriarch who brought his family to the county in 1780. Another son of Edward Tyler, William Tyler, also established a farmstead adjacent to the family holdings to the south of Taylorsville Road. This farm has little remaining physical evidence of Tyler's tenure on the land and lacks the integrity exhibited by the three included in the district.

The historic road system (JF 689) was an important feature of the spatial organization of the district and is still

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apparent with many segments of the original circulation system intact and in use. Where roads have been abandoned, their road beds are still visible and marked in many places by retaining walls, sections of cobbled paving, trees that lined the road, and elevation changes.

Natural features such as topography, available supplies of water and stone, as well as arable land and timber supplies influenced the spatial organization of the district. The primary residence of each farm is sited on relatively high ground. All three Tyler farmhouse sites were chosen because of their proximity to springs. Such siting provided an adequate supply of water for human use and consumption as well as livestock needs. Additionally, each site contains rock outcroppings that were suitable for the quarrying needs of the farmstead.

Land Use Categories and Activities

Historically, the major land use in the district was agriculture. Today, portions of the district remain in farming as either cropland or pasture. Investigations of historic census records indicate that the Tyler family engaged in both general family farming and some specialized agriculture for sale or trade. Physical evidence remains of various agricultural practices including livestock raising, dairying, vegetable gardening and orchards. Historical agricultural activities are carried out and interpreted to school children at the Moses Tyler-Presley Tyler Farm (JF 298), known today as the Blackacre Nature Preserve. Draft horses are used to lumber selected trees, plow selected fields, and plant hay and wheat using historic agricultural practices.

The entire district retains much of the integrity of the eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Tyler farms because land remains primarily in agriculture or forest. The Moses Tyler-Presley Tyler Farm (JF 298), however, retains more of the open quality that characterized the district during its productive farming years. A large portion of Blackacre, as the farm was named by its previous owners, the Macauley

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Smiths, consists of fields that have been planted in or grown up in grasses. Some of the fields are pastures where cattle and sheep graze for at least part of the year on hay and winter wheat, while others are left ungrazed but mowed. Several of the fields were used traditionally for agriculture during the ownership of both Moses and Presley Tyler. Aerial reconnaissance and the resulting photographs document that a significant number of open fields still remain in the district and are recognizable landscape units. (Illustrations # MT-1, TS-1, RT-11)

Federal census records reveal that the Tylers, like other typical nineteenth-century farmers of the county, grew wheat, corn, oats, and hay as their major crops.⁵ Beans and potatoes were other important crops but produced in substantially smaller quantities; it can be assumed that the usual vegetable varieties were produced in small gardens near the house. Grazing animals included horses, dairy and beef cattle, and sheep. The Tylers all kept swine, and since each farm historically had a smokehouse, each family produced and cured meat. It is not known, however, if the Tylers kept their hogs in enclosures or at free range in specific fields or where these fields would have been located. It is likely that the Tylers would have used some of the lower lying areas that are fed by springs as hog lots. It is also possible that hog lots changed regularly, as undergrowth was consumed by the animals.

The decline of agriculture and the trend toward smaller acreages in the twentieth century have resulted in some land use changes. A greater percentage of land is in tree cover than would have existed in the Tyler era. Moreover, some road frontage has been subdivided for twentieth century residences. Although there is a minor visual impact upon views from the road from this post-Tyler era development, there has been very little impact on the overall integrity of the area, which remains sparsely populated and in the traditional agricultural or forest uses. Twentieth-century residential development has occurred exclusively along roads and accounts for less than twenty acres (less than 3% of the total land area of the

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district). Of the seventeen twentieth-century residences contained in the district, 65% are agricultural-related. The remaining 35% are primarily residential in nature. House types range from early twentieth-century frame bungalows and rural cottages to brick veneer and frame ranch houses from the 1960s and 1970s. There are several wooden barns, chicken houses, and sheds.

A whiskey distillery once existed on the Moses Tyler-Presley Tyler Farm (JF 298) and was operated by Moses Tyler, although no physical traces are now evident. According to a 1940 newspaper account, the Presley Tyler house on the same property was once used as a stage coach stop--a use that would be consistent with the house's location adjacent to a well-traveled historic road and the architectural embellishment of the house on the sides nearest the road.⁶

With the exception of the distillery and the possible use as a stage coach stop, there are no known historical commercial uses in the district. The Tyler farms did, however, have convenient access to a small commercial service center that developed in the late nineteenth century around Tucker Station, which is north of the district. Tucker Station was a stop on the Southern Railroad and provided the Tylers and other farms in the vicinity with railroad access for transporting crops and receiving supplies.

There is physical evidence that individual quarrying occurred on each Tyler farm (Illustration # MT-21). One of these small family quarries developed into a major commercial quarry--the Tucker Quarry--on Tucker Station Road. (Illustration # MT19) After an accidental tapping of underground springs in the early twentieth century, the large quarry filled with water, was abandoned, and later became a public swimming place that is still in use today (Illustration # MT-20). With the above exceptions, the rest of the district remains in residential, agricultural, and forestry uses.

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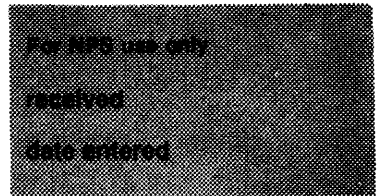
The Moses Tyler-Presley Tyler Farm (JF 298) is used as an educational and interpretive center. Its protective deed restrictions require that the land remain undeveloped. The Macauley Smiths, who purchased the property in 1950, established the farm as a preserve in 1979 because they felt they could not bear it if "...the place was going to be destroyed and blacktopped and cut up into little pieces."⁷ The 170 acre farm was donated to the Kentucky Nature Preserve Commission with deed restrictions which provide that the land will be "saved from the plight of residential and commercial encroachment and the property will be preserved for posterity."⁸

The Smiths were also responsible, during their residency, for returning the farm to much of its original character by clearing thistles, briars, weeds and cedars from fields that were previously used for crops. High tension lines from a Louisville Gas and Electric Company right-of-way cross a pasture on the farm (Illustration # MT-1). Ironically, the sale of the right-of-way provided the financial means to repair and rebuild fences in their historic location and to reintroduce cattle grazing.

The district contains two small early twentieth-century farms that are still actively engaged in agriculture (Illustration # RT-14). There are also several contemporary structures that are mostly residential (although some retain agricultural-related functions such as horse stables or gardens) and are situated on relatively small sites close to the road (Illustration # TT-17). The two small twentieth-century farms in the district make a substantial contribution to the continued agrarian character of the district by keeping open as crop and pasture lands areas that were once used in a similar manner by the Tyler family. They are also part of the relatively stable land use patterns that have characterized the district since the early nineteenth century.

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Several radio towers stand on a hill just north of the Robert Tyler farm (JF 259) but the land under them is still in hay keeping the farm's agrarian character intact--even if somewhat disturbed visually (Illustration # RT-12).

Response to Natural Features

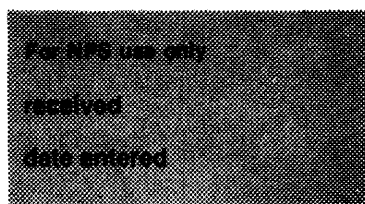
The early Tylers found acres of wooded land to clear for farms and to provide timber for building and fuel. Natural non-arable lands, such as stream banks and sinkholes, have remained wooded. Since soil in the district is susceptible to erosion where there are steep slopes, flat and gently rolling land has been used for crop cultivation, while the steeper slopes have been reserved as pasture land or woodlands.

Siting of the three historic farm complexes responds to the presence of springs and the general terrain--level land interfacing with more rugged, hilly land. For example, the Moses Tyler farm complex (JF 298) is sited at an intersection between arable, flat land and wooded, sloping land (Illustrations # MT-1 and MT-28). The Tylers appear to have understood the principles of site planning and, thus, selected house sites that were suitable for construction and located on slightly higher elevations--safe from sinkholes, flooding and moisture-related problems--but avoided rugged terrain that would have posed construction difficulties. The Tylers are known to have taken advantage of nearby streams and springs and the appropriate soil composition to construct small farm ponds and one pond for the Moses Tyler distillery. The 1879 Atlas of Jefferson County shows a spring with a pond near the Presley Tyler House and at the J. T. Sweeney House (JF 260). It is probable that these ponds have been enlarged to create the existing ponds on the two farms and that they were used historically to cut ice during the winter (Illustration # MT-18).

During the early years of their settlement, the Tylers built with the materials at hand on their land--logs and stone. Rock outcroppings made the availability of building

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stone an obvious building attraction (Illustration # TS-12). There is evidence of a quarried site on each farm and the stone used in construction on each farm corresponds to that found in that quarry (Illustration # MT-21).⁹ It is possible, however, because of the similarity of stone throughout the district, that stone quarried on one farm was used on others. It appears that brickmaking was not attempted in the district, since stone was readily available and local soils contained insufficient clay. Not until well into the nineteenth century did district property owners turn to manufactured bricks to build residences with more stylistic pretensions than their early basic log and stone houses. Throughout the nineteenth century, however, they continued to use available local materials for such farm structures as barns and sheds. Timber stands were preserved on each farm to maintain an adequate supply of building materials and firewood. Tulip poplars, in particular, were used frequently for structural timbers, siding, and flooring in the district.

The geology of the district led to the expansion of one of the Tyler quarries into a commercial quarry. Stone from this quarry was most likely used to build the cemetery enclosure in the mid-nineteenth century. Rock outcroppings at the edges of the lake reflect its history as an early Tyler family quarry and, subsequently, as a commercial quarry (Illustration # MT-19).

The availability of streams and springs made Tyler land an excellent location for Moses Tyler's stillhouse. It was situated near a spring and a creek north of the house site on the Moses Tyler-Presley Tyler Farm (JF 298) in order to take advantage of the cooling waters and a northern exposure (Illustration # MT-17).

Sinkholes are a characteristic natural feature of the land of the district, and occupants have traditionally allowed native vegetation to grow up in these sinkholes to provide shade and windbreaks in pastures and to delineate and stabilize the sinkholes. This practice continues to be an active land management strategy today (Illustration # MT-

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16).

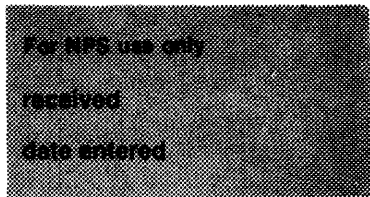
In general, roads within the district were laid out to take advantage of level land and gently sloping terrain. The road at the northern end of the Moses Tyler-Presley Tyler Farm (JF 298) where it approaches Rehl Road curves around a hillside gradually gaining elevation with the natural topography. While the soil in the district has good qualities for agriculture, it is less-suited to road construction. The soil is susceptible to erosion where there are steep slopes and during the winter months when there is frost action. Near the house site at the Moses Tyler-Presley Tyler Farm (JF 298), where it was necessary for the road to come straight up a hillside, the early builders responded to the existing landform by cutting and filling for the road and reinforcing the road bed with native cobblestone and constructing retaining walls of native stone to prevent erosion (Illustration # TT-9 and TT-10). These important landscape features are intact today.

Circulation

The historic Tyler Settlement Transportation System (JF 689) of the district is an integral landscape component (Illustration # TT-6). The terrain of the district made interconnections among the Tyler farms relatively simple. The Tylers found land that was level or gently sloping where they could lay out roads that would connect their farms and give them access to county roads as well. Traces of historic roads exist within the district, a number of farm lanes are still in use, and the major contemporary roads have historical antecedents (Maps # 5, 6, 7, and 8). A historic system of public and private roads is still apparent through surviving remnants of a system that both inter-connected the Tyler farms and provided linkages to the major public roads of the surrounding region. Current major roads within the district and along the adjacent southern district boundary include Taylorsville Road, the former Louisville and Taylorsville Turnpike which borders the area on the south and connects it to Jeffersontown, and

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Tucker Station Road, dividing the district roughly north to south from the Southern Railroad tracks in the north to Taylorsville Road on the south (Map # 9).

Remnants of historic roads exist on each of the three Tyler farmsteads, with several fragments surviving that probably were once part of an early nineteenth-century public road. The 1858 G. T. Bergmann Map of Jefferson County shows such a public road beginning at the Louisville and Taylorsville Turnpike (now Taylorsville Road) and running north along the east side of a farm owned by a Mrs. Pound a later owner of a portion of the Robert Tyler Farm, (JF 259) that turns west through the Presley Tyler property and terminating at what is now Rehl Road (Map #5).¹⁰ The existing drive through the Moses Tyler-Presley Tyler Farm (JF 298) is certainly part of this historic road and survives with little modification (Illustration # TT-7). A portion along the Robert Tyler Farm remains as a road trace which was identified in field investigations. It is likely that this road existed even earlier than the 1850s and is the road on which Moses Tyler located his distillery. The road may have been part of Mann's Lick Road--an "ancient road" that connected the farm with Mann's Lick and other significant salt lick settlements of Central Kentucky. While natural features and its proximity to his residence may have been major determinants in Moses Tyler's selection of this site for his distillery, the location of water sources near a public road providing accessibility and allowing easy transport of the distilled whiskey may have been equally important in the site selection.

Other extant traces of old roads may have been part of a system of farm lanes connecting the Tyler farms (Illustrations # TT-1, TT-2, TT-3, and TT-4). The secluded tree-lined drive that serves today as the entry drive to the Robert Tyler house is part of an original farm lane and keeps much of its original rural character (Illustration # TT-5).

The Tylers were knowledgeable about roads and played an important role in the development of early roads in

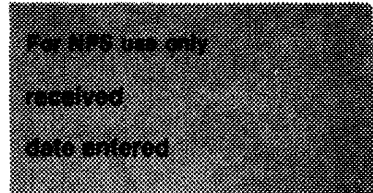
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Kentucky. Robert Tyler was a court-appointed surveyor of the road from Guthries, Kentucky, to Shelby County. William Tyler, Edward Tyler's son who lived outside the district boundaries on the south side of what is now Taylorsville Road, was surveyor for the public road from Jefferson Town to Mann's Lick Road.¹¹ Joseph Sweeney, who built the impressive brick house on the Edward Tyler land (JF 260), also had significant associations with road development in the area as president of the Louisville and Taylorsville Turnpike Road Company, established by the legislature in 1850. Presley Tyler was one of several individuals who loaned money to build the first five miles of the turnpike east of its intersection with Bardstown Road nearer Louisville.¹² The involvement of Sweeney and Tyler in the turnpike shows the importance of this road to the district in connecting it to the nearest large community--Jeffersontown. The former turnpike, while significant in terms of its historic associations with the district, has not been included within the boundaries because of its lack of integrity due to numerous changes in width, alignment, paving, and the loss of significant vegetation that shaded it historically.

The roads on Tyler land were laid out and maintained with an eye toward taking advantage of natural topography where possible (Illustration # TT-18) and employing erosion control techniques such as stone curbing where rugged topography made following natural contours difficult (Illustration # TT-13). Several examples of the response of road systems to the natural environment have been discussed above. In addition, the roads through the Tyler properties are known to have contained wooden bridges with embankments of quarried stone over springs and streams--two embankments exist on the road running through the Moses Tyler-Presley Tyler Farm (JF 298, Illustrations # TT-11 and TT-12). Roads through the Tyler properties were aligned in such a manner that there would not be a problem with standing water. In areas such as the road south of the Presley Tyler house where the road is below a small hillside, the slope was gently modified to lessen the slope of the hill above the

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road (Illustration # TT-8).

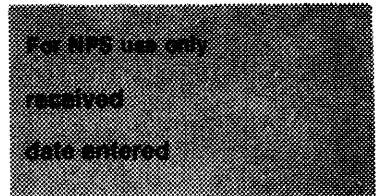
The 1879 Atlas of Jefferson County, Kentucky, shows the road through the Moses Tyler-Presley Tyler property (JF 298) as a major road comparable to Taylorsville Road--the former turnpike--an indication of the quality and importance of this road through the Tyler land (Map #6).¹³ Even with the coming of the railroad to nearby Tucker Station, road development continued in and adjacent to the district. Tucker Station Road is believed to be contemporary with the railroad to allow access to that important new means of shipping agricultural goods. Tucker Station Road is still a narrow country road that retains an alignment remarkably similar to the original as well as mature locust trees that line the edges of the road--particularly in the southern portion (Illustration # TT-14), and a seemingly original, steep embankment in the northern portion (Illustration # TT-15). The first known documentation of the road appears in a 1907 USGS map for the Louisville Quadrangle (Illustration # Map #7).¹⁴

Boundary Demarcations

The western boundary of the district is defined, in part, by fences and hedgerows that serve as boundaries between various parcels and, occasionally, separate distinct functions within a site (Illustration # MT-1). In many instances, these boundary markers correspond to historical records of boundary divisions within the district. Surviving boundary markers and internal dividers within individual farms include woven and barbed wire fences, walls of quarried stone, cedar trees, and other vegetation that grew up along fences and roads (Illustrations # MT-23 and MT-24). As the area increasingly has been allowed to grow up in woodland, internal boundary dividers not adjacent to roads have become less discernible. Aerial and infrared reconnaissance, however, have established that these divisions still exist in many cases and can be readily identified (Illustration # TT-1).

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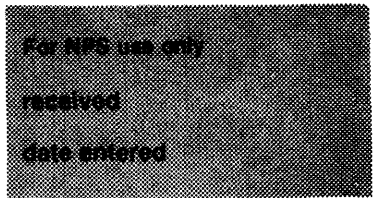
Vegetation Related to Land Use

Various types of vegetation bear a direct relationship to the long-established patterns of land use in the district. The relationship between land use and vegetation in the district is particularly evident in the areas which were cleared for farming and those left uncleared because of terrain (Illustration # MT-1). As noted above, indigenous species--primarily cedars and locusts, but occasionally also Kentucky Coffee trees, hackberries, dogwoods, and yellow woods--often exist along fence lines or fence line remnants that indicate divisions between different land uses (Illustrations # MT-23, MT-24, and MT-27). The entrance road to the Moses Tyler-Presley Tyler Farm (JF 298) runs along a fence bordered by an open field (Illustration # TT-7). The road into the Robert Tyler Farm (JF 259) is defined by a treeline of locusts on each side of the narrow lane (Illustration # TT-5). Old growth trees can be found along the road remnant which runs north through the Tyler-Sweeney Farm (JF 260), including an intermittent line of cedars which appear to have been a conscious planting (Illustration # TS-14). A grouping of large cedars--over one-hundred years in age--appears to be marking an intersection of farm roads linking the Tyler-Sweeney (JF 260), and Moses Tyler-Presley Tyler (JF 298) farms (Illustration # TT-4 and Map #9). Several large trees flank the old road path on the Moses Tyler-Presley Tyler Farm (JF 298), and old growth tulip poplar trees (40" and 48" diameter) stand near two springs on the Tyler-Sweeney land (JF 260) apparently in association with stops on the road coming west from the Robert Tyler Farm. It was customary to leave a few oak or ash trees in the pasture for shade; this practice accounts for isolated original trees and surviving stumps throughout the district (Illustrations # TS-14 and MT-26). Sometimes such surviving trees were fenced to prevent livestock from damaging the trees by eating their bark.

Although vegetation is frequently one of the most variable features in a historic rural landscape, there are few indications of new species that have been introduced into

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the district. Vegetation today is remarkably consistent with the vegetation that existed during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The variety of crops has been reduced in number with the decline of agricultural viability in Jefferson County; hay and winter wheat which were both produced traditionally remain the major uses of cropland (Illustrations # MT-25 and MT-27). Several grassland pastures and open meadows that are believed to have been in such use historically remain open and some are still grazed while others are mowed (Illustration # MT-22).

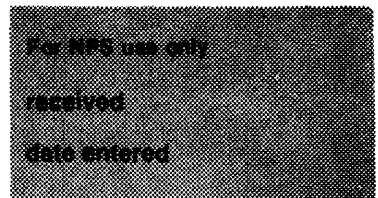
Cluster Arrangement

The Tyler Settlement Rural District includes three historic farm complexes which, in general, consist of farmhouses and unattached attendant outbuildings, including barns, springhouses, smokehouses, slave quarters and sheds. The residence is generally the largest building in a complex of buildings that were grouped together in a cluster. This cluster relationship is particularly strong on both the Tyler-Sweeney Farm (JF 260, Illustration # TS-1) and the Moses Tyler-Presley Tyler Farm (JF 298, Illustration # TT-6). In each of the Tyler farm complexes, however, the arrangement of buildings and the relationship between houses and outbuildings is site-specific. The barn site at the Moses Tyler-Presley Tyler Farm (JF 298), for example, may have been determined by grazing practices, since the best land for that purpose lies west of the house. Houses are sited closer to the roads than are other buildings and serve as important orientation points on each farm. Each spring house is connected to higher ground by a set of stone steps that may have originally been linked to a stone walk connecting the springhouse to the rest of the complex. There is no indication of any surviving walks within complexes although they are believed to have existed.

The Tyler family members shared a joint cemetery that was located on the land originally settled by family patriarch Edward Tyler (JF 260, Illustration # TS-8). The location of the graves in the cemetery--facing east--reflects a theological practice and relates to the original approach

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and access to the cemetery from the east (Illustrations #TS-9 and TS-11).

Buildings and Structures

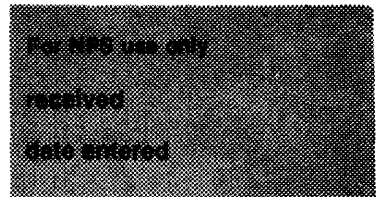
The architecture of the district is an important indicator of generational successions within the Tyler family and other changes in ownership, as well as the changing tastes and attitudes of the property owners in the district. The historic architecture in the district also illustrates vernacular building types and technology in a variety of structures and materials. Log cabins, stone and brick dwellings, log barns (including a large double-crib structure), and outbuildings of stone, brick, and frame construction are all represented.

In general, the domestic architecture of the district can be characterized as restrained in architectural details and ornament, although distinguishing features include door and window surrounds, cornices, mantelpieces, and other woodwork. Physical evidence and written records also confirm examples of such rarely documented nineteenth-century building techniques as "penciling" (JF 298). Even when there is an association with a fashionable architectural style, as at the Sweeney house (Illustration # TS-5) on the Tyler-Sweeney Farm (JF 260) and the Presley Tyler house (Illustrations # MT-2 and 3) (JF 298), the architecture of the district is best described as vernacular. Each residence is set in the midst of an agricultural complex where it must be viewed in the vernacular context of its dependencies and cluster arrangement. Although a number of outbuildings remain, the main residence is the most likely historic structure to have survived on each of the Tyler farmsteads.

The earliest extant dwelling house in the district may be the one-and-a-half-story stone cottage (Illustration # TS-2) built on the Edward Tyler property (JF 260). Edward Tyler had moved with his sons and a nephew to the Louisville vicinity in 1780 and was granted a tavern keeper's license by the Jefferson County Court in 1784 for

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a site in what is now downtown Louisville. He acquired his original farm acreage of just over five-hundred acres in two parcels as Treasury Warrant 12182 from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The one-and-one-half-story, single-pen stone house has one exterior stone chimney. Believed built in the 1780s of Brassfield, a dolomitic limestone, or Saluda Dolomite that was quarried in the district (and most probably on this farm), the structure was probably built originally as the residence for either Edward Tyler, Senior, or Edward Tyler, Junior, although there is a possibility that it may have been a slave dwelling. If the stone building was a slave dwelling, there are few comparisons to it. The presence of a chair rail on the interior (Illustration # TS-4), quoining at the exterior corners (Illustration # TS-3), and calsomined interior walls indicate that the house was more refined than the typical slave quarter. The basement north of the building is a puzzling feature; it may have served as a cooling room beneath a later addition that has been removed from the stone building. According to oral traditions, the stone structure was used as a kitchen, which would explain the use of a root cellar adjacent. Regardless of its original use, this small stone house remains a significant example of early stone construction in the county and reflects the period in which family patriarch and early settler, Edward Tyler, established his family in eastern Jefferson County.

Although stone in the district is believed to have been quarried on the Tyler farms, it is most likely that stone construction was carried out by masons and not by the owners or their slaves. Masons are known to have worked in this area as early as 1790; in fact, at least forty-eight stone masons have been identified as having worked in Central Kentucky between 1790 and 1830. Even if the stone house on the Tyler-Sweeney Farm (JF 260) were built as slave quarters, it may have been built by masons hired by Tyler, since it was not unusual for property owners in this area to contract for construction of stone quarters when the main house foundation was built.¹⁵

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The Robert Tyler house (JF 259 and Illustrations # RT-2 and RT-3) began as an eighteenth-century log cabin-- most probably built in the late 1780s for either Edward Tyler, Senior, or his nephew Robert Tyler; a stone addition was built in the early 1800s. Although Edward Tyler may have lived in the log house (some accounts report he died there), it is most likely that the primary occupant was Robert Tyler.

Although there is no definite date of construction, the Robert Tyler house (JF 259) is believed to be one of the earliest surviving log dwelling houses in Jefferson County. It is a good example of early building techniques and the use of log, stone, and weatherboarding, in a single structure. The oldest part of the house--the two-story log section--has been covered with weatherboarding and there is one exterior-end, stone chimney. The log part of the house is a rectangular pen with two rooms on the first story that are divided by a partition of beaded boards. Only the smaller room has exposed logs on the interior; there is one enclosed corner staircase. The rectangular-pen log house with a hall-parlor plan was probably not as common in early Jefferson County as the single-pen structure or double-pen with a dogtrot. The stone addition has one interior-end chimney. Windows throughout are six-over-six. Porches to both the log and stone sections are later additions.

The Robert Tyler house (JF 259) is significant as a representative example of both late eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century stone and log construction. It is also an excellent example of the manner in which early houses were enlarged using the materials at hand.

Joseph A. Sweeney, a former minister from Buckingham County, Virginia, was responsible for the district's first house with architectural pretensions. Following his purchase of 570 acres of the Edward Tyler land in 1837, Sweeney had a large, two-story brick house built on his land (JF 260). When John T. Sweeney, who married a great-granddaughter of Edward Tyler, Senior, purchased the

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property from his father, the house and farm were once again in the the Tyler family. The property remained in the ownership of descendents of the Tyler/Sweeney family until 1968 when it was purchased by the current owners, Richard and Patricia Harris.

The large, brick Greek Revival/Italianate residence is a two-story, three-bay house with a hipped-roof and four central interior chimneys with corbelled tops (Illustrations #TS-1 and TS-5). The extended eaves and tall front door with narrow sidelights reflect the mid-century transition toward the Italianate style. The rigidly symmetrical double-pile house has plain interior woodwork. The three-bay facade is unusual and rarely found on large double pile houses in this vicinity; the interior chimneys also are unique in Jefferson County. The house is an unusual vernacular form of the transitional style from the Greek Revival to the Italianate in Jefferson County and its hipped-roof also is somewhat higher than is usual in the county. The mortise and tenon roof structure reflects an earlier vernacular building tradition that had been abandoned in many areas by the believed construction date of the late 1830s. An ornate one-story portico was removed by Mr. and Mrs. Harris in their restoration because it was not original to the house; a one-story wing was added sympathetically to the rear of the house in the 1970s.

Until recently it has been believed that Moses Tyler lived in the stone house (Illustration # MT-4) adjacent to the brick house on the Moses Tyler-Presley Tyler Farm (JF 298) until his death in 1839. Based on comparisons of similar surviving structures, it now appears more likely that the stone house was a slave dwelling.¹⁶ Moses Tyler is known to have lived on this property and to have deeded it in trust to his son Presley with the stipulation that the younger Tyler take care of him.

The location, size, materials and configuration of the houses where Moses Tyler lived originally and where Presley Tyler lived before building the brick house are unknown. It is most likely that the dwelling was of either log or stone

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and that it was located in or near the present complex. It may have been demolished and the materials reused in other construction or destroyed by fire. Since the same masonry techniques were used throughout the period from the 1790s to the 1840s, the stone house may predate the brick house or it may have been built as slave quarters at the same time as the larger brick house. The stone house has a simple interior and retains an enclosed stair that appears to be original (Illustration # MT-6). The stone house was once connected by a breezeway to a log slave house (since demolished). This connection may indicate that the stone house was, indeed, a slave dwelling and not a Tyler residence as do the presence of two entry doors (Illustration #MT-5). Although they could be replacements dating from the later period, the butted rafters indicate a construction date concurrent with or even a few years later than the 1844-1845 date of Presley Tyler's residence.

The dates of 1844 and 1845 for the brick house that Presley Tyler built on land deeded him by his father Moses Tyler have been established through a bill to Tyler for the manufacture of bricks for his residence. Samuel McDonnald and C. Schooler who did the work--making and laying the brick for the house--also indicated a charge for 72 feet of cornice and for pencilling 20 squares at 50 cents.¹⁷ A close examination of the Presley Tyler house confirms that this must be the dwelling house mentioned since the cornice dimension and the amount of pencilled or struck mortar joints on the Flemish bond front and side elevations correspond to these dimensions. An 1844 date on a rafter is further evidence.

The house is a fine example of an early nineteenth-century Federal farmhouse. This two-story, five-bay, brick I-house is more pretentious in siting and style than the other Tyler houses and reflects the rising fortunes of the family. It is prominently located on a slight rise, and is often visible from the historic road system. Distinctive features include a brick cornice and jack arches above the windows. The main doorway has narrow sidelights and a six-pane transom. There is two-story ell at the rear. An

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enclosed corner staircase in what is now the dining room gives access to the room above. Paneled door reveals and panels beneath the windows are other examples of interior details.

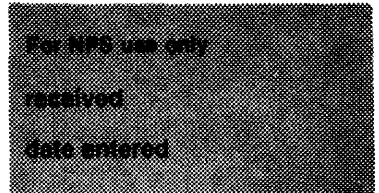
The house passed through several owners, including neighbor and relative-through-marriage John T. Sweeney and the Krueger family after Presley Tyler's death in 1881. The Woodward family, who purchased the property from the Kruegers and called it "Land o' Skye", sold it to the Macauley Smiths in 1950. The Woodwards were responsible for the largely sympathetic interior renovations and modernizations of the house.

Since remnants of even abandoned stone buildings remain on the Tyler farms, it is unlikely that stone slave quarters--other than the two mentioned previously as possible slave dwellings--were ever constructed in the district. One slave log cabin (Illustration # TS-6) remains in good condition on the Tyler-Sweeney farm (JF 260). Since construction techniques varied little in the settlement period, it is not known whether it dates from Edward Tyler's or Joseph Sweeney's tenure on the farm. A remodeled log slave quarter also survives on the Robert Tyler Farm (JF-259, Illustration # RT-4). In all probability, other slave dwellings on the farms were also log. All the known examples of slave quarters in the district were located relatively close to the main dwelling house. Two other log slave dwellings have been documented--the one attached to the stone house at the Moses Tyler-Presley Tyler Farm (JF 298) and another log slave cabin on the Tyler-Sweeney Farm (JF 260). Both have been demolished. A small site (approximately 50' X 200') that has been allowed to grow up in vegetation adjacent to other cleared fields on the Moses Tyler-Presley Tyler Farm may have been either the site of quarters for field slaves or a slave cemetery (Illustration # MT-15).

Compared to other Jefferson County property owners, the Tylers were not owners of large numbers of slaves. Edward Tyler listed ten slaves in the 1820 federal census; his son Moses had only two.¹⁸ The 1850 census shows Presley Tyler

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as having 6 female and 5 male slaves. An examination of federal census data shows that Sweeney had fifteen slaves in 1850 and fourteen in 1860.¹⁹ Since several of these slaves were children, it is likely that they were all housed in the quarters that are known to have existed on these farms.

In addition to slave dwellings, a number of other outbuildings were necessary in the historical period and may have typically included springhouses, kitchens, smoke houses, ice houses, drying houses, root cellars, privies, woodsheds, loom houses, carriage houses, corncribs, pigpens, chickenhouses, milkhouses, and barns. The majority are believed to have been wooden buildings that have disappeared because of neglect or obsolescence. A substantial number, however, do remain and they provide a fairly representative sample of the range of outbuildings in the district. Like the residential structures, most have stone foundations. Quarried stone, not fieldstone, was used even for outbuildings and their foundations.

A nineteenth-century frame outbuilding (Illustration # MT-7) with beaded weatherboards and a high ceiling and a later shed addition is located within the farmhouse cluster on the Moses Tyler-Presley Tyler Farm (JF 298). There is no evidence of a chimney. If a chimney never existed, it is unlikely that the building was used as a residence by either the Tyler family or their slaves. An unheated stone building of similar size also with a high ceiling is known to have been a loom house in Clark County.²⁰ Since deeds and census records document that both Moses and Presley Tyler kept sheep and produced wool, the family would have needed a loom house. (The current educational program on the farm uses the building for its weaver-in-residence program.) There is, however, evidence of interior plaster and brick nogging that may indicate use as a residence. It is also possible that the building was originally heated and that the chimney was removed in the remaking of one of the gable ends to accommodate the addition of double doors. Given the large size of the Tyler family, this auxilliary

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building may have been used as a residence by one of the Tyler brothers or as an annex to the main residence.

There are two surviving log barns on the Tyler farms. The barn (Illustration # MT-8) on the Moses Tyler-Presley Tyler farm (JF 298) is a large double-crib structure of immense, hand-squared yellow poplar logs. The barn may date from about 1790--a date that would appear to be shortly after Moses Tyler cleared the land on his farm for grazing and crop production, or it may be as late as 1840. With the addition of sheds to it, the original log barn (Illustration # MT-9) has been incorporated into a large frame barn that is still in use for hay storage and to house and interpret the livestock used in the Blackacre educational program (Illustration # MT-11). The deed dated December 12, 1834 (in which Moses transferred 300 acres to son his Presley) mentioned horses, mares, colts, cows, bulls, steers, calves, and sheep. This description may indicate that there were other early barns on the farm which have been lost.

A log barn (with dry-wall stone foundation and original notching), believed to date from the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century with a later weatherboarded shed addition, survives on the Robert Tyler Farm (JF 259 and Illustrations # RT-8, RT-9, and RT-10). The existing barn on the Tyler-Sweeney Farm (JF 260) incorporates much of an earlier barn that is believed to have been built during the Sweeney period of residency. The current owners have rebuilt the barn--altering the original roof pitch. Another turn-of-the-century barn on the same farm was demolished, as was a drive-in corn crib. No corn cribs survive within the district.

Each Tyler farm retains a stone springhouse located relatively close to the main house, reflecting the importance of these structures in domestic life, especially during the warm summer months (Illustrations # RT-5 and TT-18). The springhouses are in varying states of repair, but all remain good examples of this important and utilitarian structure on the Tyler farms. The springhouse at the Moses

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Tyler-Presley Tyler Farm (JF 298) has been rehabilitated, while the one on the Tyler-Sweeney Farm (JF 260 and Illustration # TS-7) has lost its roof but has been stabilized. The Robert Tyler springhouse retains a good example of the original draining system employed in springhouses (Illustration # RT-6). Since it was uncommon to contract out for such small buildings, these smaller stone structures may represent the work of the Tyler family or their slaves. Stone steps and wall fragments survive in association with the springhouses (Illustration # RT-7).

No original smokehouses remain in the district; on the Moses Tyler-Presley Tyler Farm (JF 298) a recent smoke house has replaced an earlier smokehouse. The location of the foundation for the early smokehouse is still apparent and can be identified near the location of the present smokehouse within the house environs. The smokehouse at the Tyler-Sweeney Farm (JF 260) has also been demolished but is known to have been located within the farmhouse cluster. The location of the Robert Tyler smokehouse (JF 259) is not known.

Although several outbuildings from the historical period have been lost, relatively few new uses or structures have been introduced to the farmhouse cluster. A frame garage that is an open shed-type structure sheathed in weathered clapboards (Illustration # MT-10) has been added to the cluster at the Moses Tyler-Presley Tyler Farm (JF 298). Although of recent vintage, it is compatible in appearance with the older frame outbuildings. Three small sheds are other twentieth-century additions to this farm. A new brick garage has been added to the cluster at the Tyler-Sweeney Farm (JF 260). A small, contemporary interpretive center has been built east of the road through the Moses-Tyler Farm and away from the traditional cluster. Shaded and screened by indigenous vegetation, the weathering, frame structure is compatible and has little visual impact (Illustration # MT-12). (This is a converted heifer shed from the post-Presley Tyler period.)

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The only known commercial use within the district occurred in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries in a whiskey distillery that no longer survives, although the site is believed to have been identified from verbal descriptions (Illustration # MT-17). As early as 1798, Moses Tyler had a license (believed to have been one of the first legitimate distilleries in Kentucky) to operate a distillery to make whiskey "on a gentle bank, across the little branch (and bridge) in the hollow north of the house." An unpublished paper relates that "the spring water for the whiskey came through hollowed out logs from the big spring (out of a little cave) in the bluff northeast of the house. Water to cool the coils was obtained from a pond made by damming up the little stream above (east) of the present bridge."²¹

The bungalow farmhouse also appears in the district on two smaller farms that were subdivided in the early twentieth century from what was originally Tyler land (Illustration # RT-16). The several post-World War II era buildings that have been added to the district are suburban in character and built in linear groupings on a small percentage of the total district's road frontage and acreage, therefore, constitute minor intrusions (Illustrations # TT-16 and RT-15).

The Tyler family cemetery (Illustration # TS-8), located on the Tyler-Sweeney Farm (JF 260) is a major structure within the district. Not only is it an important symbolic element because of the Tyler family graves, but it is also important to the built environment because of its craftsmanship. A stone wall measuring approximately 50' by 100' and constructed of quarried stone slabs, some measuring as large as 83" x 20" x 16", is the striking feature of the cemetery (Illustration # TS-10). It is unlikely that stones of this size and quality tooling came from a family quarry. Because the quarry holes are similar to a mid-nineteenth-century quarry office in Warren County, Kentucky, it is most likely that the stone was quarried commercially.²² It is also probable that the stone used in the construction of the Tyler family cemetery wall came

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from the district's commercial quarry. This determination is made on the basis of type--either Brassfield, a dolomitic limestone or Saluda Dolomite (the same as other stone used in the Tyler district)--and their large size and the degree of uniformity among individual stones. The overall design and feeling of the cemetery suggest that the wall was built around an existing family cemetery and that the cemetery enclosure is not contemporary with the Edward Tyler house on the same property (Illustration # TS-9). The wall's straight, tight courses and vertical cuts combined with rough faces and solid caps generally date from the period after 1850. The wall is similar to another in the county at the Fisherville Cemetery (JF-255) on the Old Taylorsville Road.

Other walls more characteristic of farms in Central Kentucky survive in the district--most often in conjunction with road systems (Illustration # TT-9). It is probable that such walls may have been constructed by slaves, since it is known that slaves were taught basic masonry construction, particularly of dry-wall rock fences.

Small Scale Elements

Small-scale elements include the grave markers (Illustration # TS-11) in the Tyler cemetery and the two wooden bridges (Illustration # TT-11) with stone abutments (Illustration # TT-12) that cross a stream on the Moses Tyler-Presley Tyler land (JF 298). The generous use of native limestone is evident in other historic elements--remnants of a stone wall along a road on the same farm, cobblestones in the road itself (Illustration # TT-10), and stone walls around the spring stop on the road through the Tyler-Sweeney Farm (JF 260, Illustration # TT-3). There is also a brick-lined spring (Illustration # MT-14) on the Moses Tyler-Presley Tyler Farm (JF 298), as well as an abandoned windmill pump and a cattle chute attached to the barn.

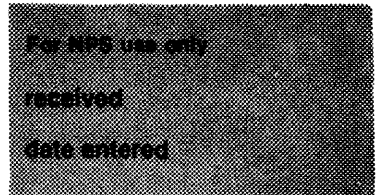
Historical Views and Other Perceptual Qualities

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The siting of the Presley Tyler house (JF 298) indicates the builder's intent to take advantage of the slightly elevated site to provide an impressive view from the house across open fields toward the entrance road. The views west across the field of the Presley Tyler house from Tucker Station Road and from the driveway approach to the house are important historical views that remain evident today. It is also believed that this house was sited so that the ornamental brick cornice would be visible from the public road passing north and south through the property (Illustration # MT-3). The view from the Tyler cemetery to the brick and stone houses in the cluster Tyler-Sweeney is another significant, surviving historical view. There may well have been historical views of other Tyler farms from the cemetery. It is probable that portions of each Tyler property were visible from the other farms when the land was farmed more intensively in the nineteenth century and there was less tree cover than there is today.

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FOOTNOTES

- 1 Jeffersontown, Kentucky, Quadrangle Map, United States Geological Survey, 1982.
- 2 Aerial photographs for Jefferson County, Kentucky, United States Soil Conservation Service, 1947.
- 3 "Blackacre: Research, Reminiscences and Recommendations for its Reuse as Part of Blackacre Nature Preserve," Samuel W. Thomas, May, 1982, p.23, unpublished paper, hereinafter cited as "Blackacre."
- 4 Seventh Census of the United States, 1850.
- 5 Review of United States Census, 1790-1920.
- 6 Courier-Journal, Louisville, Kentucky, June 2, 1940.
- 7 "Blackacre," p.5.
- 8 "Blackacre," p. 18.
- 9 Letter from Carolyn Murray-Wooley to J. Timothy Keller, November 26, 1985; hereinafter cited as Murray-Wooley letter.
- 10 J. T. Bergmann Map of Jefferson County, 1858.
- 11 Jefferson County Court Minute-Order Book 6, p.29, Jan. 4, 1802.
- 12 Ibid.
- 13 1879 Atlas of Jefferson and Oldham Counties, Kentucky.
- 14 United States Geological Survey, Louisville Quadrangle, 1907.
- 15 Murray-Wooley letter.
- 16 Ibid.
- 17 Papers in the Andrew Barnett Collection, The Filson Club, Louisville, Kentucky.
- 18 Fourth United States Census, 1820.

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- 19 Seventh and Eighth United States Census, 1850 and 1860.
- 20 Murray-Wooley letter.
- 21 "Blackacre," pp. 20 and 21.
- 22 Murray-Wooley letter.

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toward central Kentucky, in part, because the Ohio River was a natural boundary north and west of the county and because development of farms and communities was moving from east to west from the more densely settled areas of Virginia. Harrodsburg, Frankfort, Lexington, and the Virginia capital lay east of Jefferson County. Development of the roads through and adjacent to the Tyler farms was part of a nineteenth-century network of travel routes through Kentucky that connected the newly settled areas to more established ones.

The Tyler farms were part of an arc of prosperous eighteenth- and nineteenth-century farms established above the Ohio River on a plateau curving from the eastern to the southern part of Jefferson County. The farms' historic prosperity is generally attributable to several influences. The promise of productive farms because of the level to gently sloping terrain, fertile soil, and numerous streams made the area attractive for settlement in the eighteenth century. The decline in agricultural productivity in the twentieth century is largely attributable to the urbanizing influences of Jefferson County and to the lack of substantial farming activity adjacent that makes large scale farming a viable economic alternative. Ownership patterns also played a significant role in the diminishing agricultural productivity. The Tyler-Sweeney Farm (JF 260) stayed in that family until 1968, but the last family member to live there had not had the land in active agriculture for several years. The Woodward--who owned the Moses Tyler-Presley Tyler Farm (JF 298), the largest of the farms --also were not active farmers. Their successors, the Macauley Smiths, concentrated on restoring the agricultural character of the farm.

Whatever the reasons, the district farms did not make the typical post World War II conversion to large-scale cash grain farming, horse farms, or subdivision development. Any of these (or other) conversions would have drastically altered the physical layout that had been established by the Tyler family and the subsequent owners of the farms. Consequently, the landscape--complete with three farmhouse

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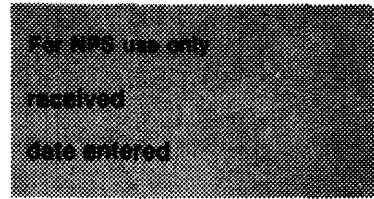
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clusters and surviving field patterns--never passed out of the general family farm era and still reflects the period of settlement patterns, architecture, and transportation systems imposed by the Tylers.

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3. Atlas of Jefferson and Oldham Counties, Kentucky, D. G. Beers and J. Lanagan, comps., 1879.
4. United States Census, 1850 and 1860.

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46-338 and 46-124 to the intersection with parcel 39-11, then proceeding northwest along the property line of parcel 46-11 to parcel 46-10, continuing southwest, then northwest to its northwest corner (south and adjacent of the intersection of the rights-of-ways of Rehl Road with the Southern Railway), then proceeding northeast along the northern property line (south of and adjacent to the southern side of the Southern Railway right-of-way) of parcels 46-10, 39-298, and 39-182 to the northeast corner of this parcel, then proceeding southeast along the western property line of parcel 39-78 to the southwest corner of this parcel, then proceeding northeast along the southern property lines of parcels 39-78 and 39-77 to the intersection of the southern property line of the Southern Railway right-of-way, then proceeding southeast along the northern property line of parcel 39-73 (south of and adjacent to the southern property line of the Southern Railway right-of-way), proceeding southeast across Tucker Station Road at its intersection with the south side of the Southern Railway right-of-way to the northwest corner of the property line of parcel 40-33, then proceeding southeast along the northern and eastern property lines of parcels 40-33, 47-72, and 47-5 (south and west of the Southern Railway right-of-way) to the intersection of the northwest corner of parcel 47-5 with the south side of the Southern Railway right-of-way, then proceeding south along the east property lines of parcels 47-5, 47-48, and 47-98 (west of the east property line of the right-of-way of an unnamed road running between the south side of the Southern Railway right-of-way and the north side of the right-of-way of Taylorsville Road) to the southeast corner of parcel 47-98, then proceeding west and south along the southern property line of this parcel to its intersection with the north side of the right-of-way of Taylorsville Road, then proceeding west along the south property lines of parcels of parcels 47-98, 47-51, 47-44, and 46-13 (north of the north property line of the right-of-way of Taylorsville Road) to the southeast corner of the property line of parcel 46-386, then proceeding north and west along the east and north property lines of parcel 46-13 to the intersection with the property line of parcel 46-89, then proceeding west along the southern property line of parcel 46-89 to the intersection with the east property line of parcel 46-336, then proceeding south along the east property line of this parcel to the intersection with the north side of the northern side of the right-of-way of the Taylorsville Road, and then proceeding west along the south property lines of parcels 46-336, 46-96, 46-293, and 46-292 (north of the northern property line of the right-of-way of Taylorsville Road to the southwest corner of the property line of parcel 46-292 at its intersection with the northern property line of the right-of-way of Taylorsville Road.

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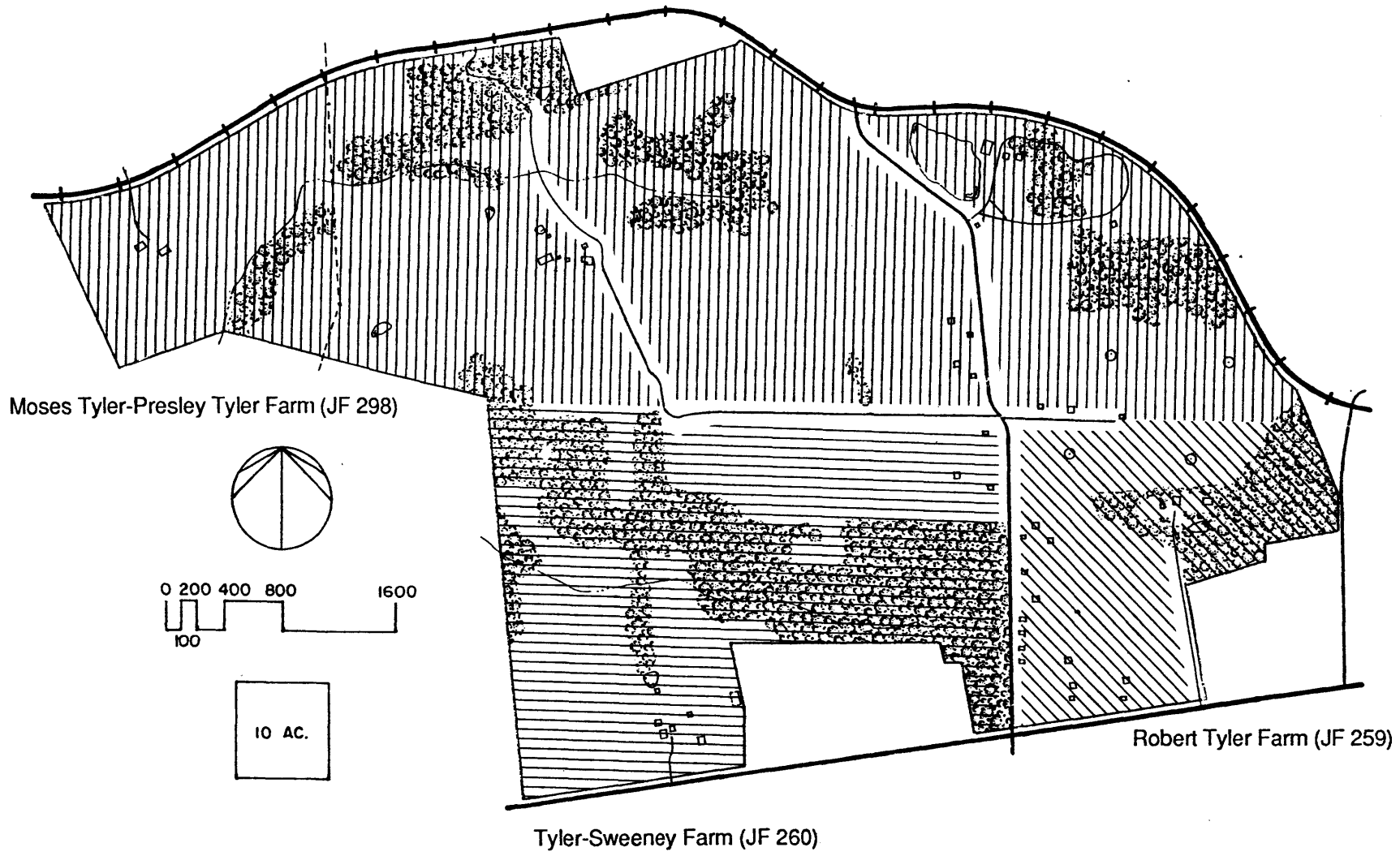
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Boundary Justification

A major determinant of the district's boundaries was land ownership patterns in the historical period, comprising mainly the land acquired by Edward Tyler through treasury warrants in 1785 and 1787 and Moses Tyler's treasury warrant of 1793. Boundaries also reflect changes in land use, notably the exclusion of former farmland south of Taylorsville Road which has been divided into small tracts and, in most cases, is no longer farmed. Land outside the western and eastern boundaries (although part of the original land grants) has been excluded because of contemporary subdivision construction. The Southern Railroad, Tucker Station Road, and Rehl Road are political man-made boundaries which post-date the historic period boundaries. The western boundary is also defined in part by fences, and hedgerows serve as boundaries between various landowners, or to separate functions within a site.

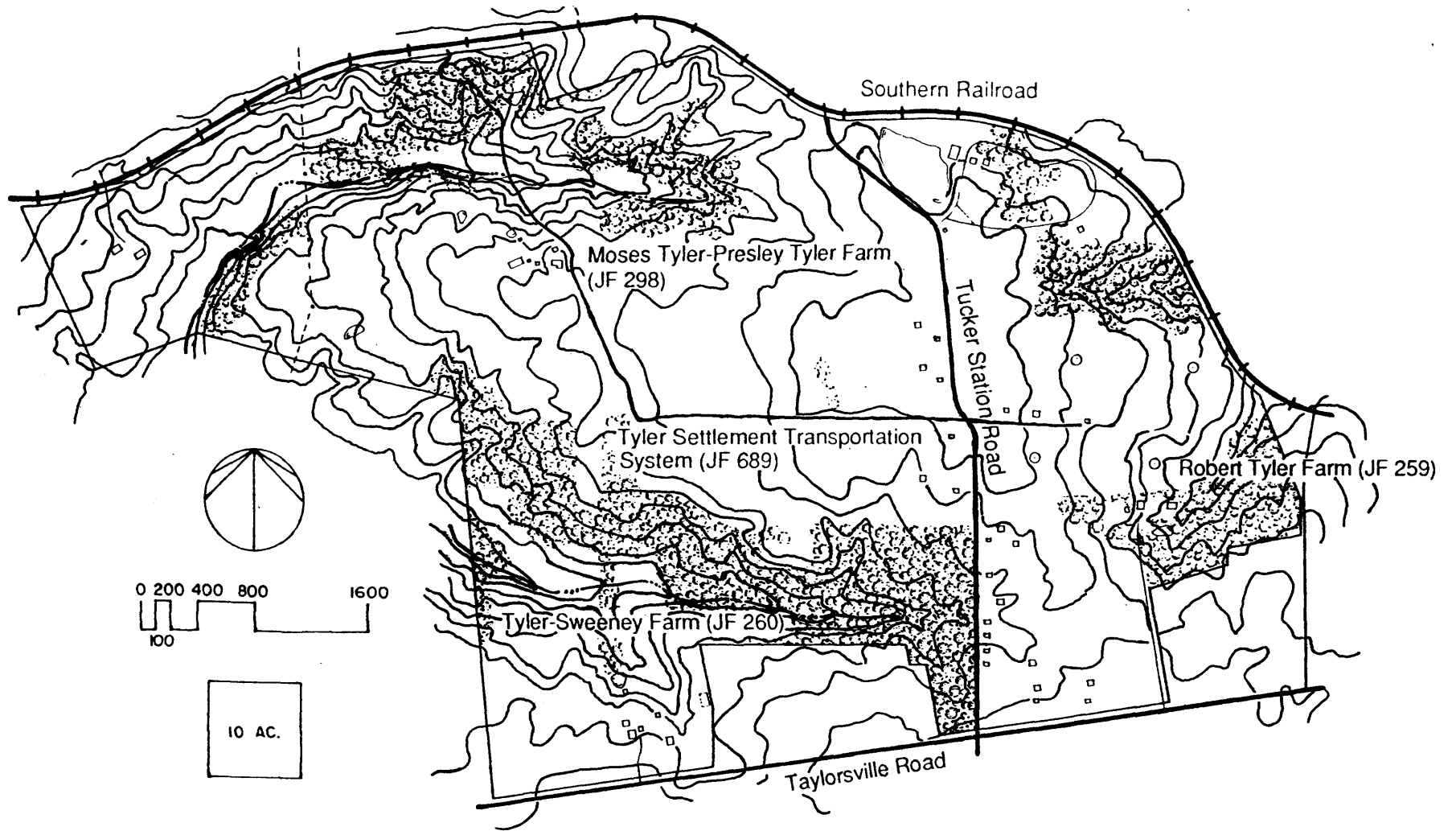


TYLER SETTLEMENT RURAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

INVENTORY

Map # 1

Land and Community Associates

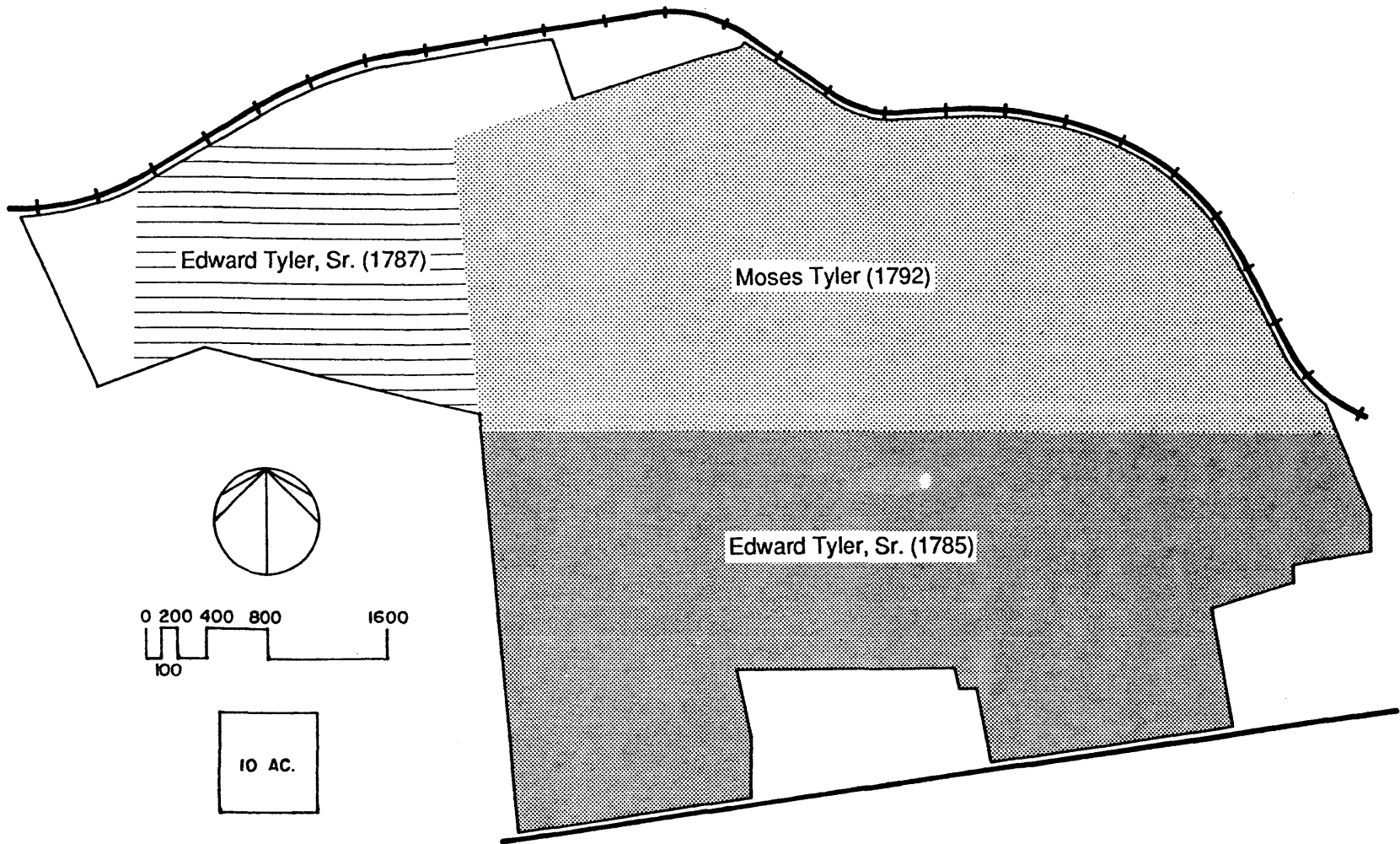


TYLER SETTLEMENT RURAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

ORIENTATION

Map #2

Land and Community Associates

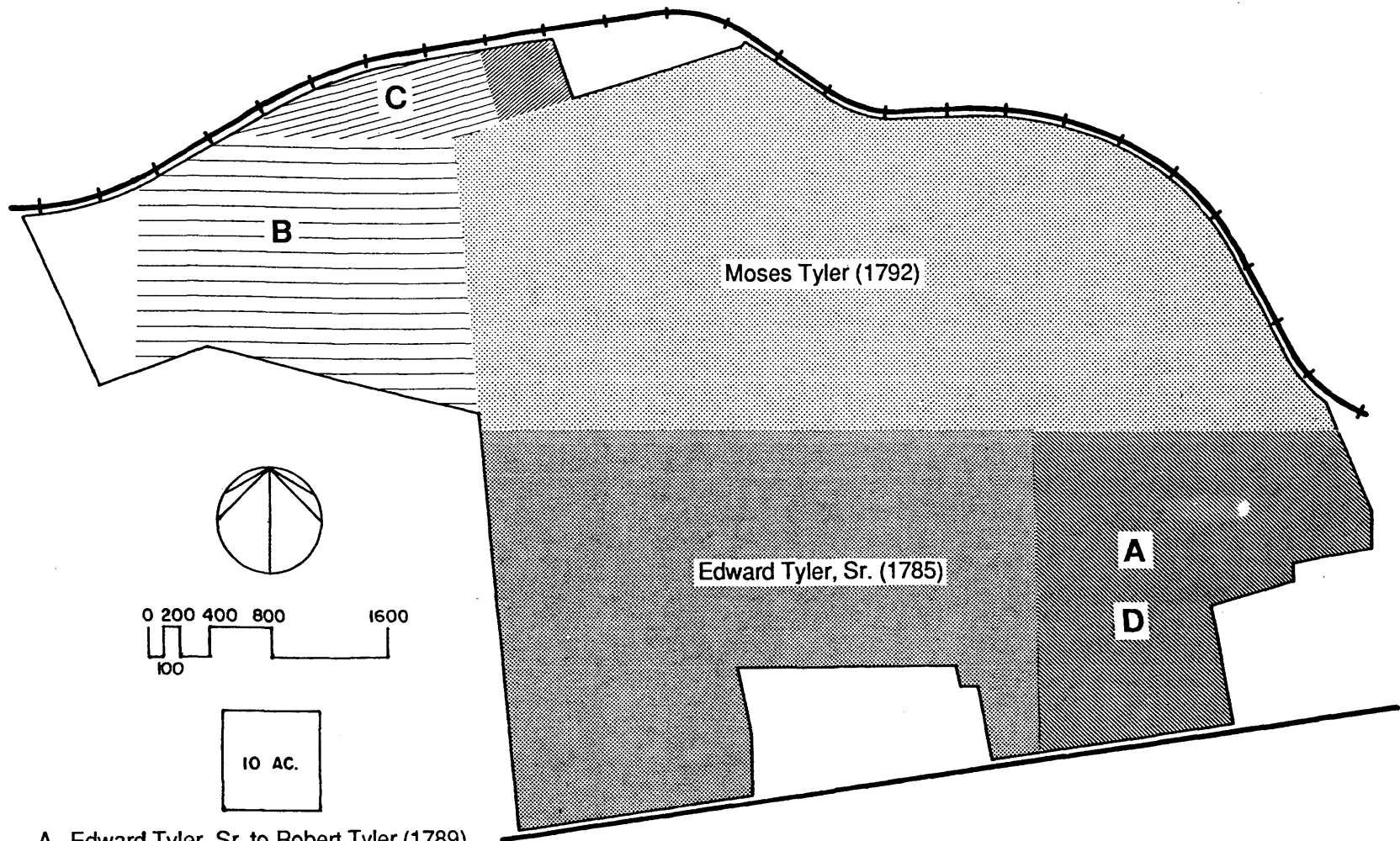


TYLER SETTLEMENT RURAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

TREASURY WARRANTS

Map #3

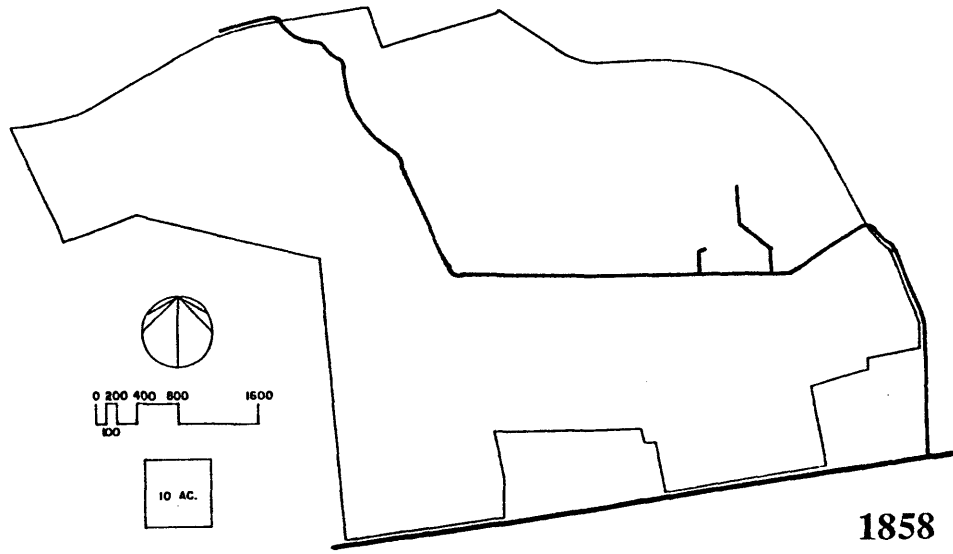
Land and Community Associates



- A. Edward Tyler, Sr. to Robert Tyler (1789)
- B. William Tyler to Moses Tyler (1794)
- C. William Goose to Moses Tyler (1801)
- D. Robert Tyler to Edward Tyler, Jr. (1819)

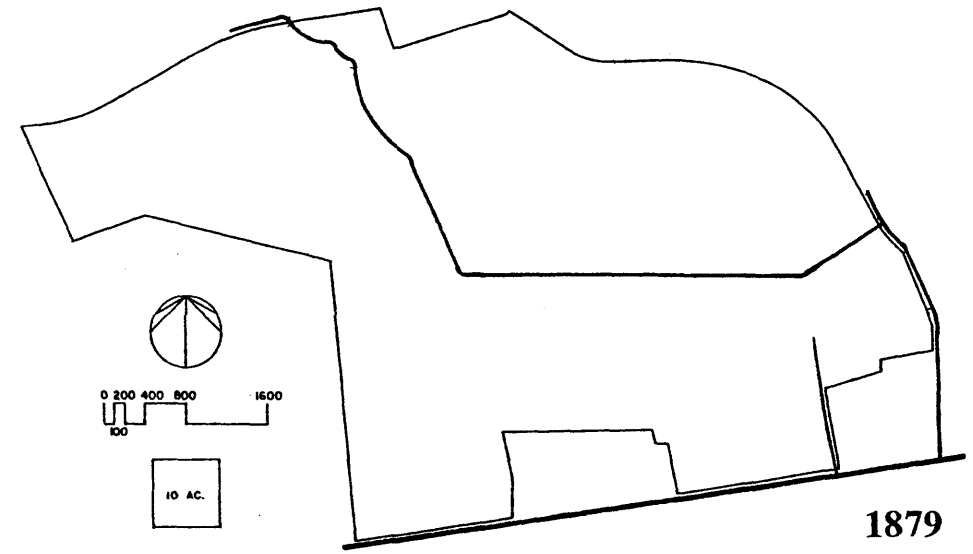
TYLER SETTLEMENT RURAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

EARLY LAND TRANSACTIONS



Map #5

1858

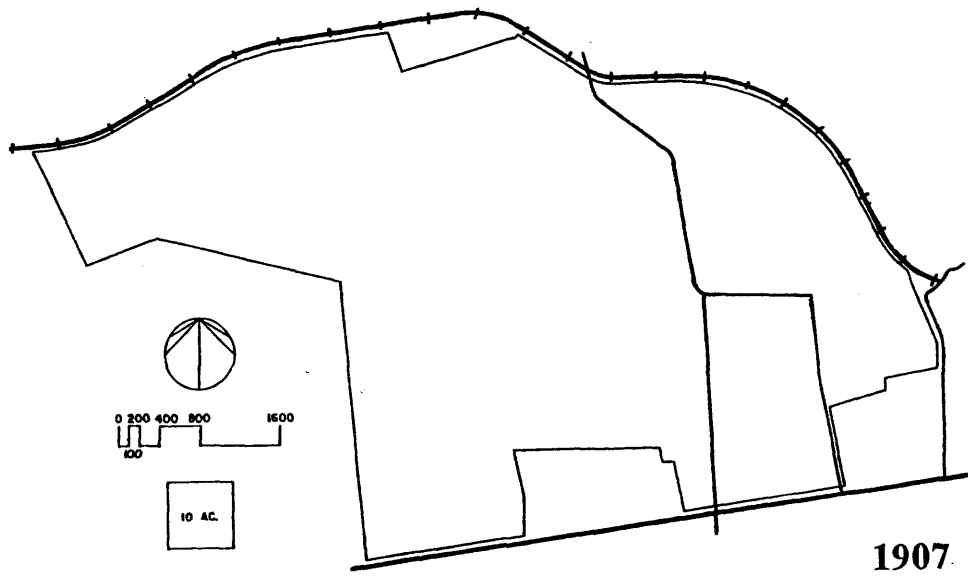


Map #6

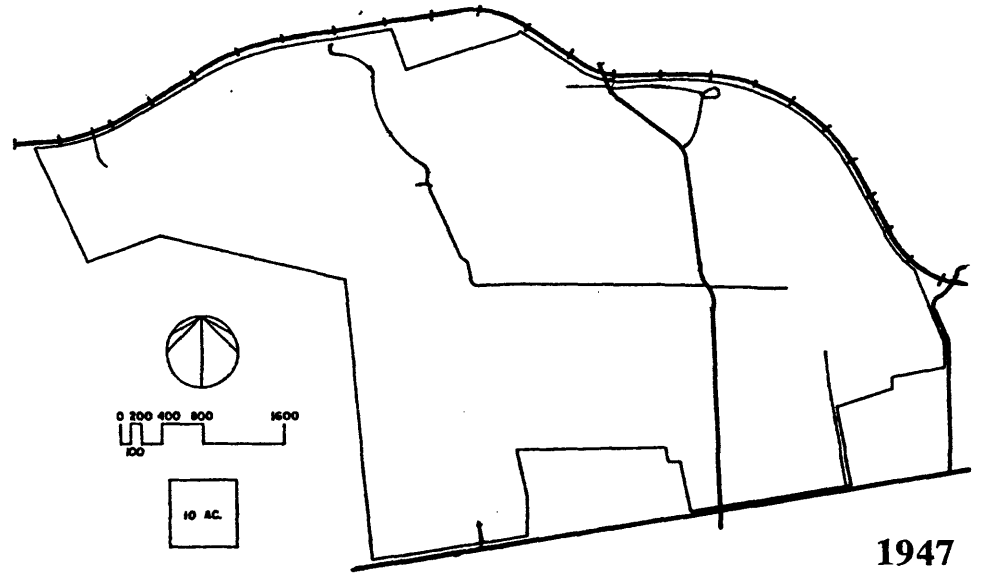
1879

Map #7

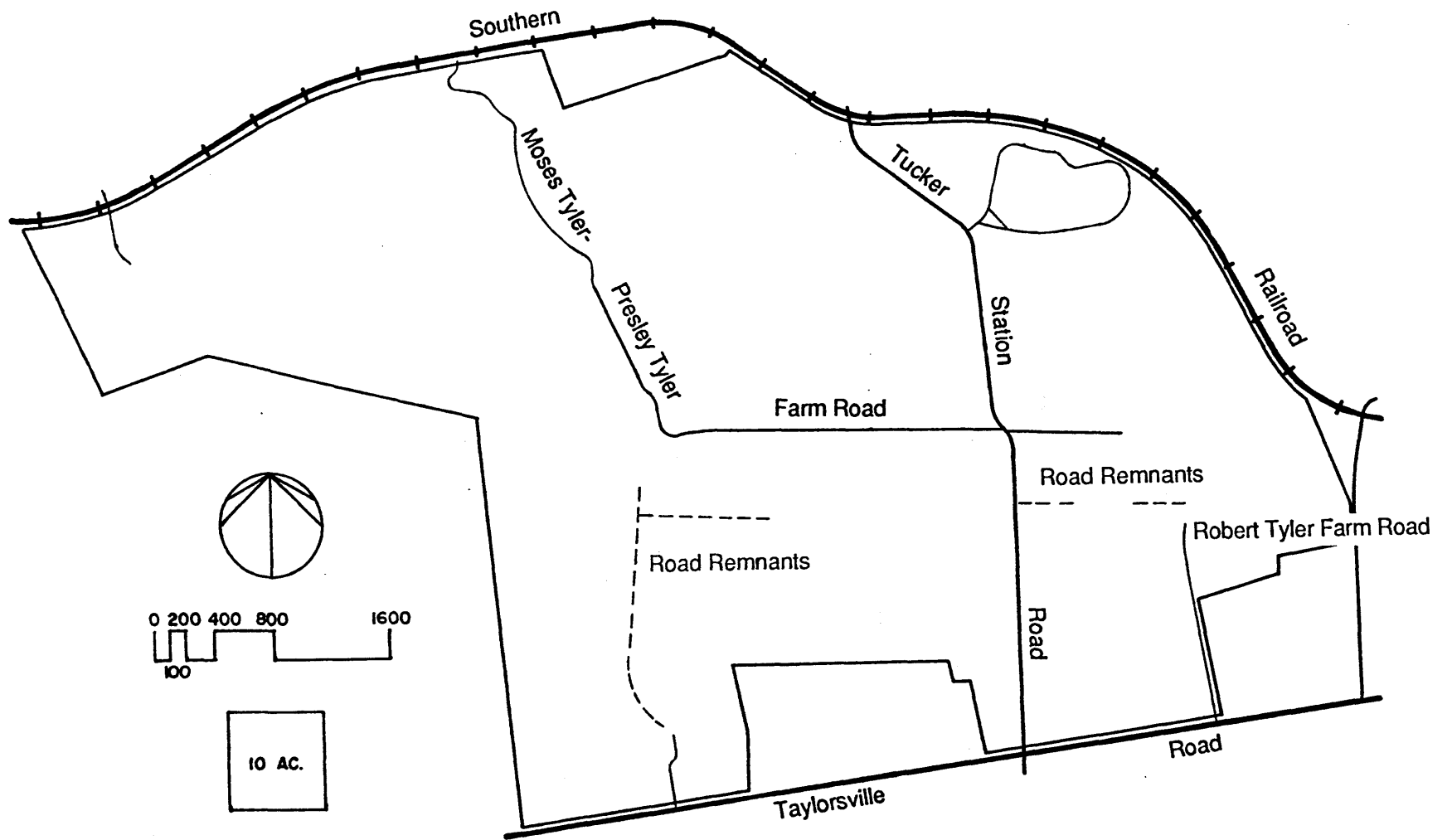
Map #8



1907



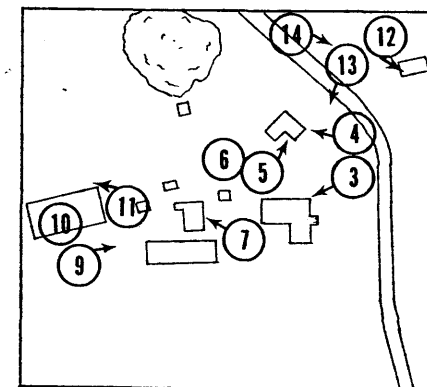
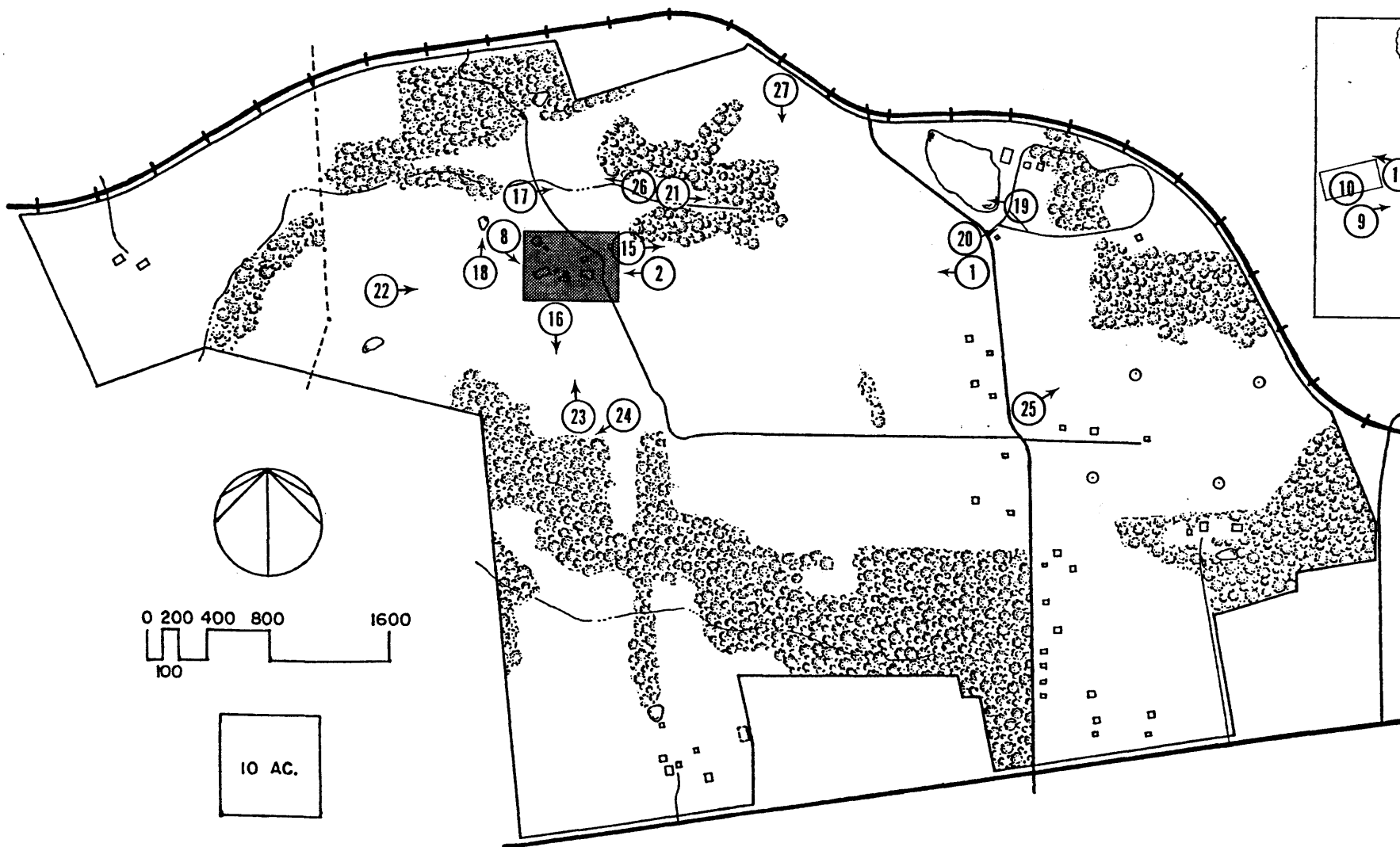
1947



TYLER SETTLEMENT RURAL HISTORIC DISTRICT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM 1985

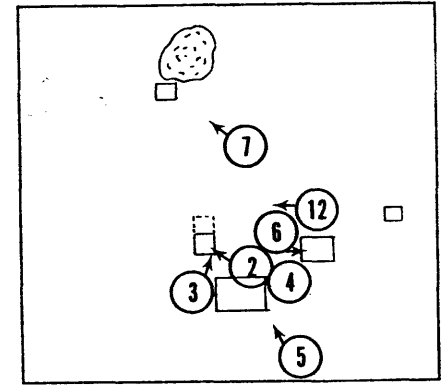
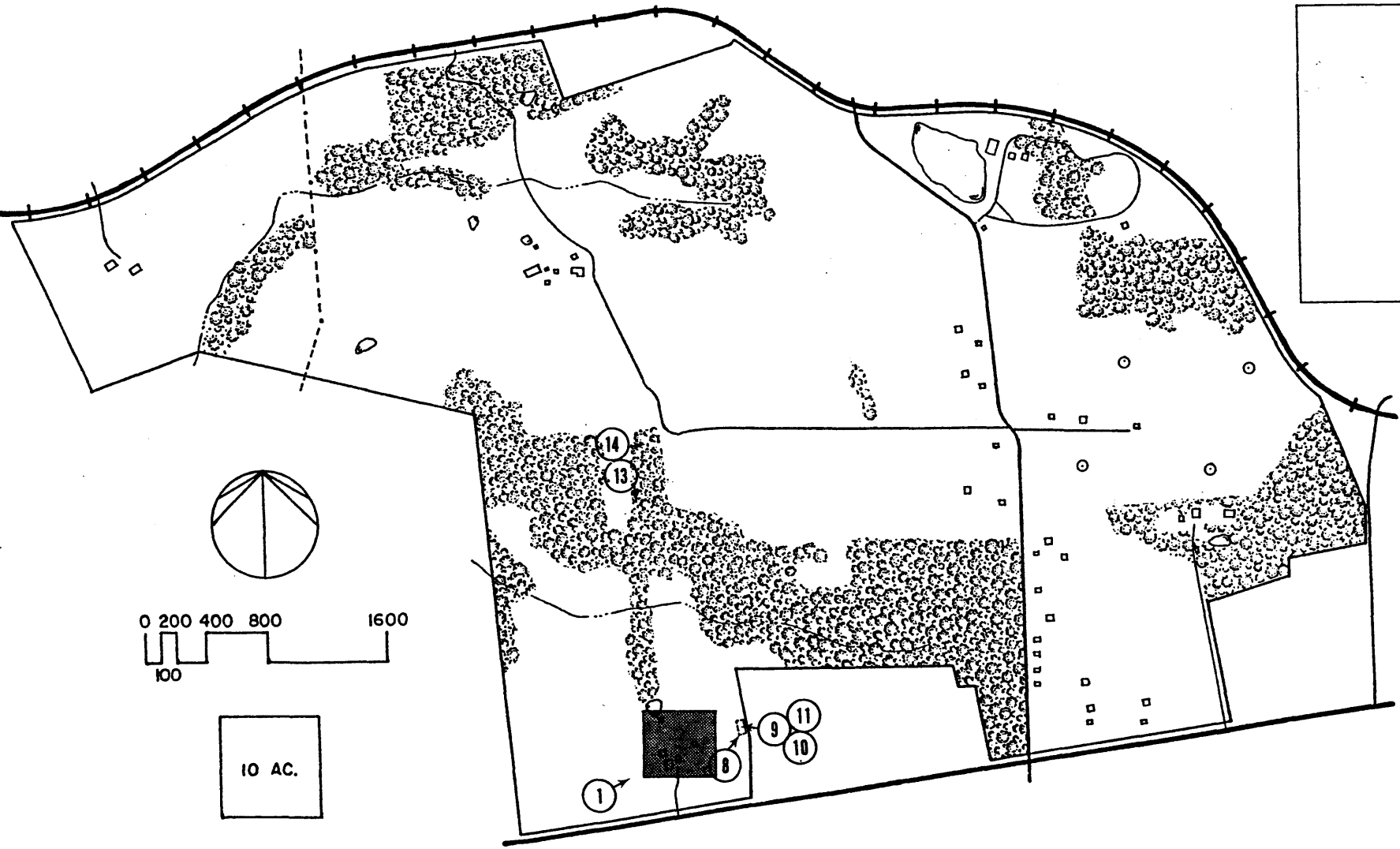
Map #9

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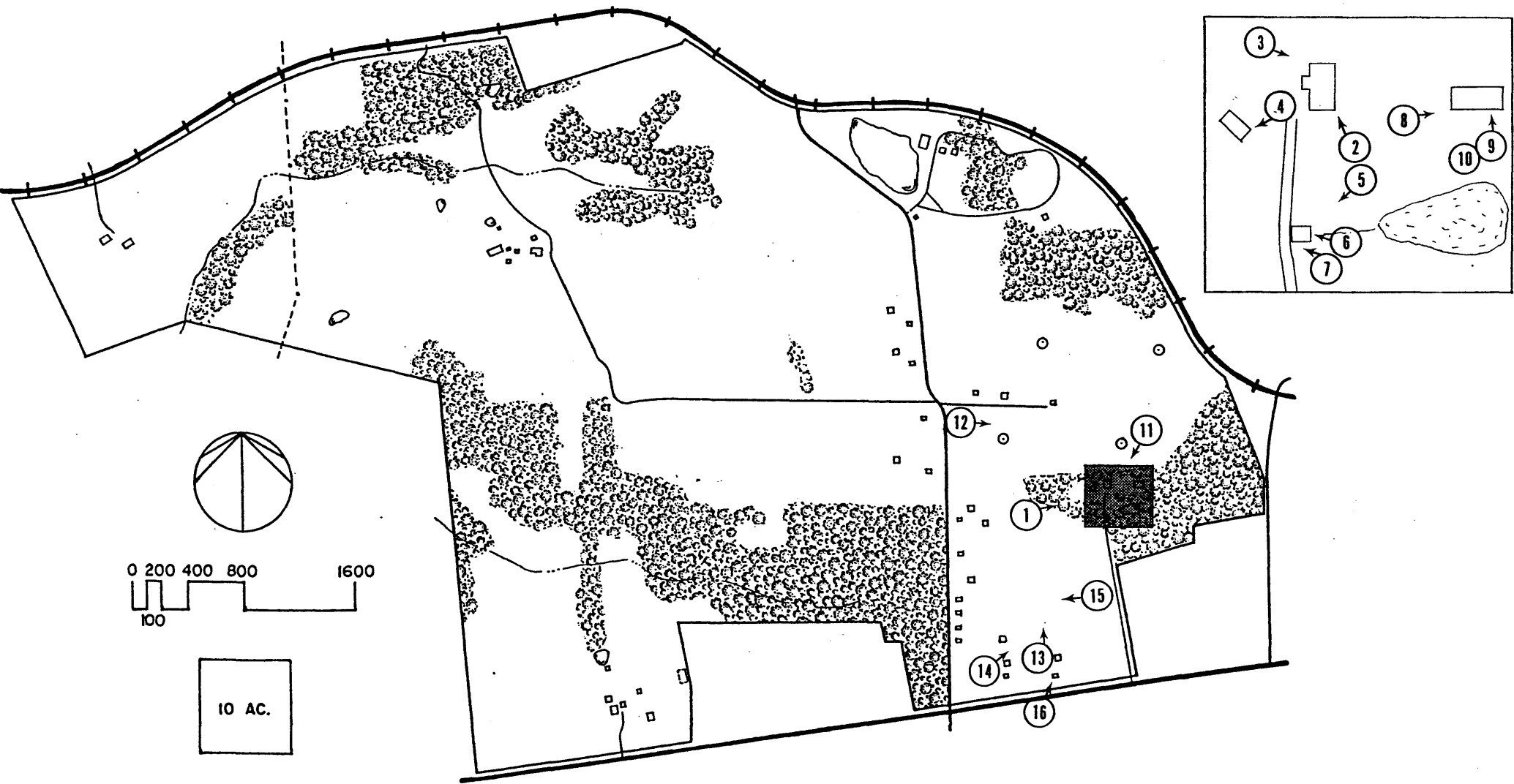
TYLER SETTLEMENT RURAL HISTORIC DISTRICT
 Map # 10

MOSES TYLER-PRESLEY TYLER FARM (JF 298)
 Illustrations # MT 1 - MT 27
 Land and Community Associates



TYLER SETTLEMENT RURAL HISTORIC DISTRICT
Map # 11

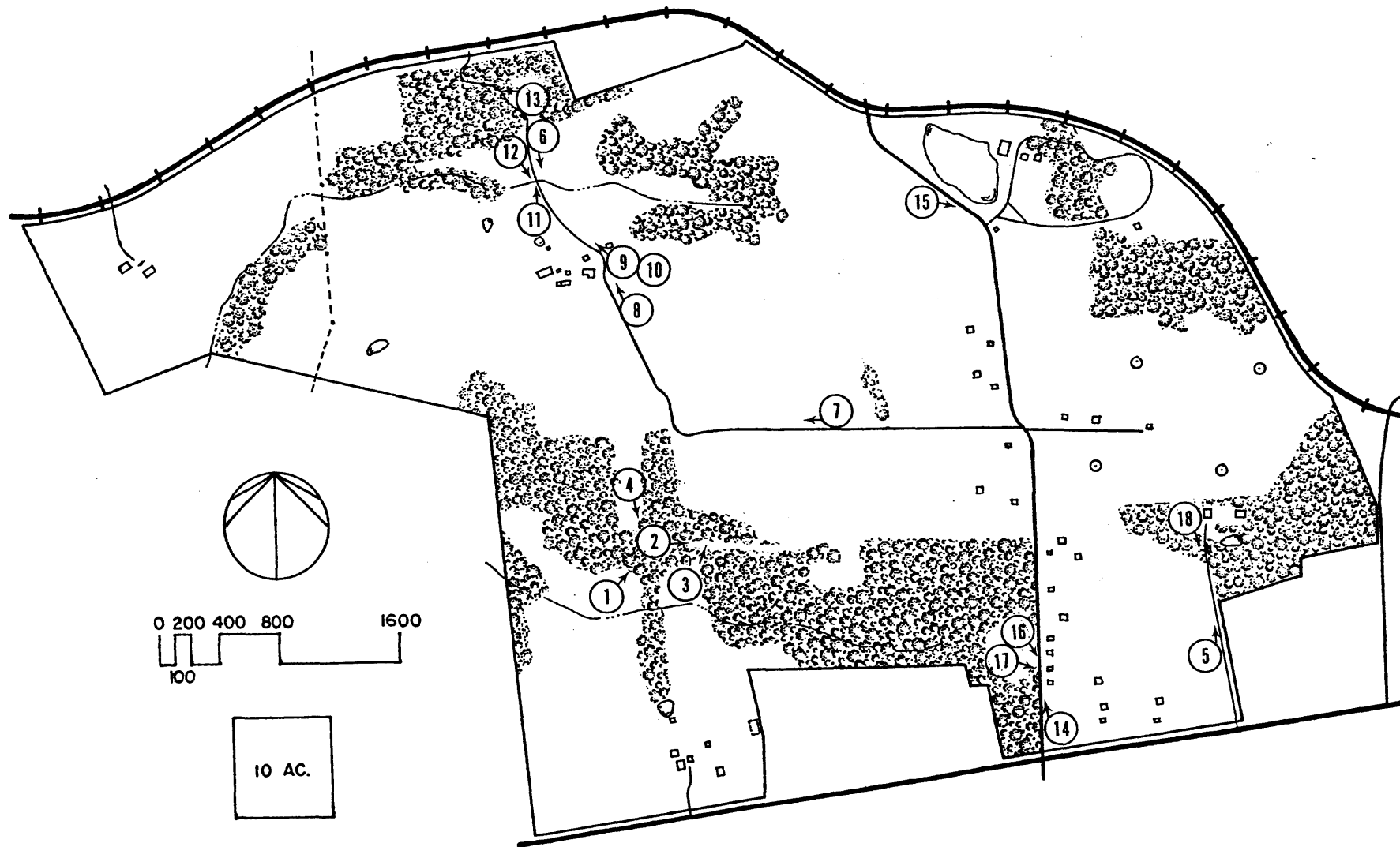
TYLER-SWEENEY FARM (JF 260)
Illustrations # TS 1 - TS 14
 Land and Community Associates



TYLER SETTLEMENT RURAL HISTORIC DISTRICT
Map # 12

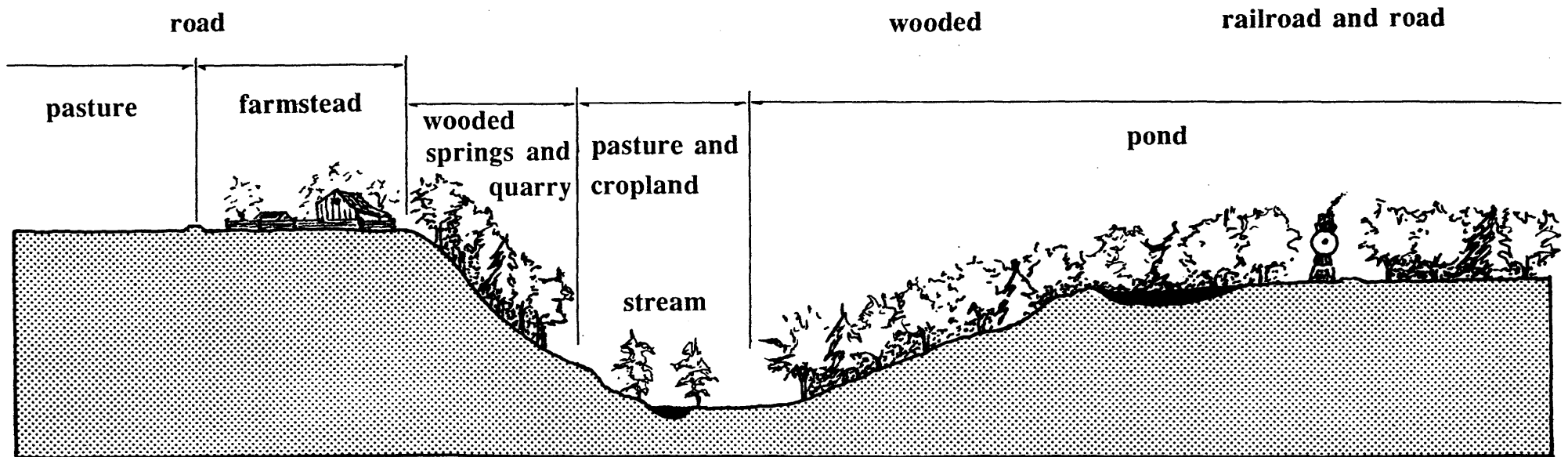
ROBERT TYLER FARM (JF 259)
Illustrations # RT 1 - RT 16

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TYLER SETTLEMENT RURAL HISTORIC DISTRICT
Map # 13

TYLER SETTLEMENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM (JF 689)
Illustrations # TT 1 - TT 18
Land and Community Associates



TYLER SETTLEMENT RURAL HISTORIC DISTRICT
Illustration # MT-28

**SECTION THROUGH MOSES
TYLER-PRESLEY TYLER FARM**
Land and Community Associates