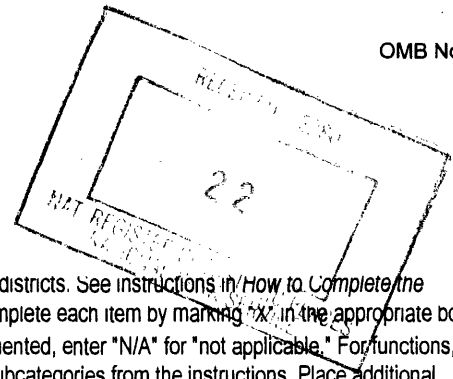


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form



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

1. Name of Property

historic name Tate, Isaac, Farm

other name/site number Ta-130 Other name: The Homeplace on Green River

2. Location

street & number Five miles south of Campbellsville on Hwy 55  N/A  not for publication

city or town Campbellsville  vicinity

state Kentucky Kentucky code KY county Taylor code 217 zip code 42718

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 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 May 28, 2004  
Signature of certifying official/Title David L Morgan, SHPO Date  
Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office

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 \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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 Register.
  - other, (explain:)

Elson H. Beall 8/4/04  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Isaac Tate Farm

Taylor County, Kentucky

Name of Property

County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box)

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

**Number of Resources within Property**

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
6	1	buildings
1		sites
3	5	structures
		objects
10	6	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**

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

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic residence

Agriculture/  
Subsistence storage, agricultural field  
animal facility  
agricultural outbuilding

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture/  
Subsistence storage, agricultural field  
animal facility, agricultural  
outbuilding

Recreation and  
Culture museum

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

mixed

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone, concrete

walls wood, concrete

roof metal, asphalt

other

**Narrative Description**

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

see attached

Isaac Tate Farm

Name of Property

Taylor County, Kentucky

County and State

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**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 a 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.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

agriculture

**Period of Significance**

1802-1954

**Significant Dates**

N/A

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

unknown

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography** see attached

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

**Previous documentation on file (NPS)**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data**

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

Name of repository:

Isaac Tate Farm  
Name of property

Taylor County, Kentucky  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 392.38 acres

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 6	6 4 4 3 0 0	4 1 2 5 3 3 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2	1 6	6 4 5 4 0 0	4 1 2 4 1 9 0

3	1 6	6 4 5 3 4 0	4 1 2 4 1 8 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4	1 6	6 4 5 3 8 0	4 1 2 4 0 4 0

These four points on Campbellsville 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 Maria Campbell Brent and Joseph E. Brent

organization Mudpuppy & Waterdog, Inc. date May 2004

street & number 129 Walnut Street telephone 859-879-8509

city or town Versailles state KY zip code 40383

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets** See attached

**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 the SHPO or FPO)

name see attached

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.

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

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1

Isaac Tate Farm

Taylor Co., KY

The Isaac Tate Farm (Ta 130) is located in the southeast region of the Pennyroyal in southwest Taylor County, approximately halfway between Campbellsville and Greensburg. It is an irregularly shaped 392-acre farm situated south of the Joe Kerr Road, west of KY 55, east of the Green River and north of the Tebbs Bend Road.

The parcel is divided by a ridge that falls from a height 700 feet to 600 feet at the Green River. South of the ridge is a broad floodplain stretching from Tebbs Bend Road to the beginning of the Tebbs Bend of the Green River.

North of the ridge is the remainder of the farm parcel. Broad upland ridges stretch from Tebbs Bend Road north along KY 55 to Joe Kerr Road. This rolling terrain is typical of the southeastern section of the Pennyroyal, which has greater relief and generally poorer soil than the western and northern sections of the region.

The farmstead is located in the upland section of the parcel. It is located just north of and adjacent to the edge of the ridge that drops into the Green River flood plain. The house and farm buildings are constructed along a road that stretches approximately one-quarter mile along the ridge. This road, which is now Hall Road, a private road, was once a section of the turnpike road between Greensburg to Campbellsville.

**Contributing Features**

**Residence**

The residence on the Isaac Tate Farm was constructed by Isaac Tate in or about 1802. It was built in the Federal style with a hall and parlor floor plan. The original structure had an end gable roof and was 1.5 stories high. The house was constructed of brick over a basement with a cut limestone foundation. The walls of the original house are 3 or 4 bricks thick. The two end chimneys are still extant, but one is now contained within the structure. On the west face of the house the original end gable roof, chimney, and upper story windows are clearly visible.

The Tate family probably altered the house's design sometime after the Civil War. An addition was built onto the east face of the house, adding two rooms. A porch with thin wood columns was placed on the north face of the house, stretching the entire length of the original structure. This remodeling gave the house the appearance of a T-plan. A 1906 photograph shows the north face of the house with one-over-one sash windows and two doors opening onto the front porch. In the photograph the house appears to have been painted a light color. The overall effect of the remodeling gives the house a vernacular Italianate look.

Henry A. "Buck" Buchanan bought the farm in 1906. According to his son, Henry Allen Buchanan, the house was remodeled again about 1921 or 1922, resulting in the bungalow appearance that the house now exhibits. During the remodeling the front (north) porch was given an asymmetrical look with four unequally spaced cut

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Isaac Tate Farm

Taylor Co., KY

limestone supports, at least three of which were topped with pyramidal wooden columns supporting the porch roof. A dormer was placed in the center of the north-facing roof to create more space on the upper story and enhance the bungalow look. The roof was altered slightly to extend over the ends of the house, a feature typical of the craftsman/bungalow style, although the brackets generally associated with bungalows are not present. At some point the porch was enclosed. It was also during this remodeling phase that the rear porch and small room addition were added. The rear porch extends along and beyond the entire southern face of the house, jutting out on the western side beyond the original house. The rear room addition, which is just east of the porch, was created by enlarging an existing room. The Buchanans added a fireplace and may have pushed the walls out to the south. The roof of this room abuts the end gable roof of the rear porch. It was during this phase of remodeling that the building was stuccoed. According to Henry Allen Buchanan, a local man, Buck Mickel, did the stone and stucco work.<sup>1</sup>

### Meathouse

According to Henry Allen Buchanan the "smokehouse in behind the present house was rebuilt by my father."<sup>2</sup> The building has always been referred to as "the smokehouse;" it is more technically a meathouse that served basically the same function, the curing of meat. In this case, the meat was salt cured rather than smoked. The meathouse is a 1.5-story concrete block structure with a full basement. It is approximately 11 feet wide and 20 feet long. It has a front gable roof with two entrances. One door is on the north face, directly above which is a window. The other door is on the east face of the building. The main room of the structure is partitioned; the northern door provides access to the front half of the room and the eastern door to the rear. The east face door also provides access to the stairs that lead to the upper floor and the basement.

The basement functioned as the main meat storage and curing room. This room included several troughs that were used in the salt curing pork. There are three steel casement windows along the western wall in the basement. The upper story is low, about 5.5 feet high at the peak. There are two windows in the upper floor, one at either gable end. Henry Allen Buchanan said that the building was constructed ca. 1920-1930. The construction methods and materials, casement windows and concrete block, are typical of materials used during that period.

### Corn Crib

"The corn crib form with two cribs on either side of a center drive probably first developed in the late 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Examples of the form can be found built of log, frame, and even masonry. It became a common sight on farms in the latter half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and continued to be built through the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, when it was gradually replaced by prefabricated metal structures."<sup>3</sup>

The corn crib is of braced frame construction, nailed, with two cribs on either side of a central drive. Bill Macintire noted that there was no loft storage in the Tate Farm corncrib. However, there is clearly a door to a loft area on the exterior and there is space above the central drive of the building. The space may not have been used for agricultural storage, but an access to it was created, indicating that it may have served some storage purpose.<sup>4</sup>

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

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 3

Isaac Tate Farm

Taylor Co., KY

The corn crib is approximately 26 feet long and 19 feet wide. It is supported on poured concrete piers. The exterior is covered in vertical board siding, which is painted red. These piers may have replaced earlier limestone piers. The structure has a front gabled roof and is covered in metal.<sup>5</sup>

**Bank Barn**

This is probably the earliest extant agricultural structure at the Homeplace. The bank barn form, most commonly associated with Pennsylvania and the mid-Atlantic region, was brought to Kentucky by immigrants from those regions. Most known examples are found in the outer Bluegrass and Pennyroyal regions of the state. Macintire states, "The bank barn at the Homeplace is of heavy timber frame mortise-and-tenon construction typical of mid 19<sup>th</sup> century construction. The heavily braced timber frame reflects the regional tradition of mid-Atlantic farming practices. Construction details suggest the building was built sometime in the 1850s-60s period."<sup>6</sup>

The bank barn is approximately 58 feet long and 32 feet wide. The roof of the barn is an end gable and is covered in metal. The barn is sided with vertical plank. It was, at one time, painted the same red as the corn crib. The bank barn was constructed to allow vehicles to access the main level and animals the lower level. The east face, which is the front of the barn, has two doors with a silo in between. Just to the left of the northernmost door is a trap door that accesses the lower floor of the barn. To the left of the stairs is an enclosed room approximately eight by six feet. Hay was stored above this structure. The barn has no loft. There is a small overhang on the north face of the barn that protects an entrance into the lower level of the barn.

The barn is constructed on four rows of six sawn timbers set on either rock or poured concrete footers. On the east and west walls of the lower section of the barn are feed troughs that run the length of the structure. Animals would have entered the barn from either a space on the south face or from the west.

According to Macintire the construction date on the bank barn is ca. 1850-1870 which he based on the peg construction. However, upon inspection of the structure, no cut (square) nails were found in any of the siding. The barn may well have been constructed earlier, if so it was resided post-1900. Local tradition holds that the barn was constructed from posts salvaged from the Tebbs Bend Road covered bridge, which burned and was demolished in 1907 and was subsequently replaced by a metal truss structure.<sup>7</sup>

**1914 Silo**

The silo at the bank barn is the oldest and smallest of the three silos on the farm. It is constructed of poured concrete and topped with a conical metal roof. There is a small front gabled, dormer-like vent on the east face. According to Henry Allen Buchanan, the silo was built in 1914. Both Buchanan and Buster Hall stated that there is a 1914 date on the silo. Access to silo is via a ladder inside the barn. According to Buster Hall, the last owner of the farm, they stopped using this silo sometime in the 1980s because it was too difficult to load and unload.<sup>8</sup>

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

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number      7      Page      4

Isaac Tate Farm

Taylor Co., KY

**Mule Barn/Stock Barn and Silo**

The Tates, the Buchanans and even the Halls used mules in their farming operations. Mr. Hall's father used mules to plant tobacco; he would not use a tractor. Mr. Buchanan stated that this barn was built by Charlie Tharp, Clinton Tharp's father. Prior to mechanization, farmers in Kentucky depended on mules to power farm machinery. A large operation would have required space to house numerous mules. The Tates used horses and mules exclusively. The Buchanans relied on mules for farming until 1918 when they purchased their first tractor. After that time, Henry A. Buchanan kept mules to use in his logging operation, a practice he continued throughout his years on the farm. The Halls were not dependent upon mules at any time but, as stated above, mules were kept on the farm for working the tobacco patch.<sup>9</sup>

The original barn is pegged frame construction and is approximately 41 feet long and 33 feet wide. The roof is front gabled and is covered in metal. The barn is sided in vertical boards. The framing timbers were originally set on larger wooden blocks, most of which have been replaced by poured concrete.

The barn has been altered over the years, reflecting changes in farming technology and the use of this structure. The Halls modified the building for use in their cattle operation, adding a silo, extending the length of the building, and adding a cattle holding area and loading chute. According to Buster Hall, the renovation of the mule barn was undertaken in 1962. It was at this time that the 40 x 12 foot silo, purchased from the Concrete Silo Company of Bloomington, Indiana, was erected. The silo was built on a poured concrete pad at the north end of the barn. Adjacent to the silo is a small shed roofed feed shed. The silo does not contribute to the nomination.

The rear (southern) addition, a loafing shed and loading chute, was constructed between 1965 and 1970. This addition doubled the size of the barn. A low 20-foot long shed structure was attached to the south end of the barn. This open structure was fenced and led to a 23-foot long loading chute with a ramp, allowing cattle to be moved from the barn into trucks for transportation to market.

**Small Tobacco/Stock Barn**

According to Henry Allen Buchanan, this barn was built by John Minor, from the Mannsville area in Taylor County. Originally a log barn, it was remodeled to accommodate the air-drying of burley tobacco.

The barn is of frame construction with the interior supports resting on poured concrete footers. It is approximately 52 feet long and 36 feet wide and has vertical bents along long north and south faces, which are used in the drying of Burley tobacco. The interior of the barn has a concrete floor that runs the length of the barn and covers approximately one-third of the width of the building. The barn is covered in vertical board siding and it, too, was at one time painted red. The barn has an end gable roof covered in metal.

Along the north side of the barn a shed addition, that runs the length of the barn, was added by the Halls to accommodate hogs. After the hog operation was discontinued the barn was used to feed cattle until the construction of the feedlot rendered it obsolete for that purpose.



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

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 5

Isaac Tate Farm

Taylor Co., KY

**Mid-20<sup>th</sup> Century Tobacco Barn**

This barn was built sometime in the 1940s to replace an earlier barn that burned. This is the largest and the newest of the barns on the Isaac Tate Farm. The barn is of frame construction and sided with vertical planks with vertical side vents for curing burley tobacco. It was built and used as a tobacco barn. The barn has no loft. The doors are located on the gable ends, the east and west ends, of the building. The end gable roof is covered in metal and has three large metal roof vents along its peak. The Halls replaced the barn's siding in the late 1970s but no other changes or additions have been made to this structure.

**Well House**

The well house was constructed in the 1940s. This well was dug when the Buchanans were drilling for oil. They diverted the water and later built this structure over the well. Pipes from the well were run to the house and to several reservoirs around the farm. The reservoirs were used to irrigate the adjacent fields. The well replaced the earlier water system built in the 1920s in which water was pumped to the house from the spring fed stream flowing from the cave that extends beneath the house.

The well house is a poured concrete building approximately 68 feet long and 27.5 feet wide. It has a metal shed roof. The well house is located in a field at the intersection of a line extending 600 feet southwest from and perpendicular to Hwy 55 and a line extending 2,600 feet northwest from and perpendicular to Hall Road.

**Non Contributing Features**

**Metal Grain Storage Bins**

In 1970 the Hall Brothers bought two metal grain storage bins that were erected on the property to provide storage for shelled corn. Each bin is capable of holding 6,600 bushels of shelled corn, which was fed to cattle.

**Metal Storage and Shop Building**

The Hall Brothers built the metal storage and shop building around 1985. This metal "pole barn" is approximately 40 feet long and 24 feet wide. It has an end gable roof. The door on the north face is the only opening. The entire building and roof are constructed of metal.

**Feed Lot and Silo**

This cattle complex was designed and built by Buster Hall in 1980. The covered feed lot was designed to create 186 feet of feed space on either side of a feed trough that runs the length of the building. The floor of the structure is concrete and it is covered with an end gable metal roof. The walls are not covered. The feed lot is built on a slope. Cattle would be brought in and fed and the manure later washed out of the feed lot into a holding pond. The pond is 14 feet deep and designed to hold enough manure to fertilize 50-60 acres. Periodically the pond would be pumped out and the manure sprayed onto the fields. Originally, the structure included a 70-foot high silo. In 1986 this silo was enlarged another 10 feet to make the silo a full 80 feet tall. It is by far the largest silo on the property.<sup>10</sup>

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 6

Isaac Tate Farm

Taylor Co., KY

---

**Conclusion**

Between 1801 and 2001, when it was purchased by the Nature Conservancy, the Tate farm has been owned by only three families. The farm has always been prosperous and the families that owned it always sought to employ the latest farming methods and technology in their operation and the latest style in the residence. The changes made to the farm buildings and the modifications to the house reflect this.

End Notes

<sup>1</sup> Interview with Henry Allen Buchanan, conducted by Betty Jane Gorin, January 15, 2002.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> Bill Macintire to Rebecca Nash, *Report on Site Visit to The Homeplace*, October 22, 2003.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>5</sup> Interview with Henry Allen Buchanan, January 15, 2002

<sup>6</sup> Macintire, *Report of Site Visit to The Homeplace*.

<sup>7</sup> Bill Macintire, personal communication March 31, 2004 and Interview with Henry Allen Buchanan, January 15, 2002.

<sup>8</sup> Interview with Buster Hall, conducted by Maria and Joseph Brent, January 20, 2003.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>10</sup> Interview with Buster Hall, January 20, 2003.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 7

Isaac Tate Farm

Taylor Co., KY

The Isaac Tate Farm (Ta 130) is locally significant under Criterion A in the context of Agriculture in Taylor County, Kentucky. The Isaac Tate farm was operated as a family farm from 1801 until 2001. In that 200-year time span the farm has remained remarkably intact. It was owned by only three families, the Tates (1801-1906), the Buchanan's (1906-1957) and the Halls (1957-2001). The history of the Isaac Tate farm reflects the broader history of the modern family farm in the southeastern Pennyroyal and Taylor County and exemplifies the changing family farm in Kentucky from settlement to the present.

### The Isaac Tate Farm

#### *Settlement and the Antebellum Years, 1780-1860*

Most pioneers entered what is now Taylor County on the Cumberland Trace, passing through the county en route to central and western Kentucky, the Cumberland settlements and the Natchez Trace. The first among those early travelers who chose to settle in Taylor County were Thomas Denton and William Stewart who settled on Sinking Creek, now Pitman Creek, in 1780.<sup>1</sup>

Much of the Green River area was closed to settlement, however, having been set aside by the Virginia legislature for division into tracts of land given in lieu of payment to those who served in the American Revolution. Military Warrant #121 issued by Governor Patrick Henry in 1783 granted 2,000 acres on the Green River to John McClanahan, Jr. Whether John McClanahan ever visited his land is unknown. Like many who held such warrants, he may have had no desire to occupy the land granted in exchange for his military service, regarding it instead as an asset sure to increase in value as the settlement of Kentucky progressed.

By the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century settlement in the area of McClanahan's land grant was well underway. Not long after initial exploration of the area in the early 1770s, several stations were established. Population of the area increased rapidly, and by 1792, there were enough people in the area to justify the formation of Green County from portions of Nelson and Lincoln counties. Two years later Greensburg, on the Green River at the site of Glover's Station, was designated the county seat. Settlers continued to pour into Green County during the last decades of the 18<sup>th</sup> century; so many that Cumberland and Adair Counties were formed entirely from Green County in 1798 and 1801 respectively. Among the new arrivals were brothers Andrew and Adam Campbell who, in 1800, settled 11 miles northeast of Greensburg in what would become Campbellsville.<sup>2</sup>

Among those who settled in the area between Greensburg and Campbell settlement were brothers John and Isaac Tate, the sons of John Tate and the grandsons of Sarah Hall and Capt. James Tate, who was killed at the Battle of Guilford in 1781. In 1801 the Tate brothers emigrated from Augusta County, Virginia to Kentucky with a party of other young Scotch-Irish couples, among them members of the Mayes, Buchanan, Caldwell, and McClanahan families. Although details are lacking, it is likely that this party, like almost every other immigrant party to Kentucky, brought with them cows, hogs, and, perhaps, sheep. The presence of horses, so necessary for transportation and draft power, is taken for granted. The Augusta County party settled on portions of a large

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number      8      Page      8

Isaac Tate Farm

Taylor Co., KY

---

patent known as the McClanahan survey, which extended for several miles along the north side of the Green River. Part of that holding was the 2,000-acre military land warrant received by John McClanahan in 1783.<sup>3</sup>

In October 1802 McClanahan sold a 2,000-acre tract on the Green River to Alexander St. Clair of Staunton, Virginia for the sum of 900 pounds. St. Clair promptly subdivided the parcel one week later, selling the lower part of the tract, 1,000 acres, to brothers John Tate and Isaac Tate for 500 pounds. The upper part of the tract was sold to John Caldwell for 600 pounds, netting St. Clair a tidy profit of 200 pounds.<sup>4</sup>

In or about that same year Isaac Tate, then 25, built a story-and-a-half Federal-style brick house on the road leading from the ferry and ford on the Green River to Campbellsville. The residence was built on the bluff high above the river and situated above a cave spring that served as a dependable water source. At the time that Isaac Tate built his house most settlers were constructing log dwellings. Those better off and with access to sawn wood might sheath their log homes in weatherboard or build frame structures. The construction of a brick house in the latest style, along with the purchase of a substantial amount of property suggests that Isaac Tate was a man with considerable resources. It is known that Isaac and John Tate came from a well-known upper class family. When they immigrated to Kentucky they had expectations of inheriting a substantial amount of property. Their father died in December 1802 leaving a considerable estate, including an interest in several mills. In November 1805 John and Isaac Tate appointed an agent to sell their interest in those holdings.<sup>5</sup>

Sometime after buying the property, Isaac Tate established a flatboat landing on the Green River downriver from where the Green River bridge on Tebbs Bend Road now stands. On a rise above the landing Tate built a warehouse where tobacco was received, prized into hogsheads, placed on flatboats and shipped to New Orleans. It seems reasonable to suppose that other products passed through the Tate warehouse as well, although specific mention was not made of them.<sup>6</sup>

In 1805, before the sale of the Virginia property, Isaac Tate declared no taxable assets other than 500 acres of land and six horses. By 1810, however, he owned three slaves, one of whom was younger than 16 years of age. Over the next 15 years there was a steady growth in Tate's taxable assets. In 1827 he owned seven slaves, although only three were over 16 years of age. He now owned ten horses and/or mules. His assets, however, did not include either a carriage or a billiard table, the two "luxury" items listed in the tax records.<sup>7</sup>

In 1829 the parcel jointly held by John and Isaac Tate, then totaling approximately 875 ½ acres, was legally divided between the two brothers. On May 29 of that year Isaac Tate and his wife, Mary, deeded 408 acres to John Tate, and John Tate and his wife, Rachel, deeded 467 ½ acres to Isaac Tate, within that, the area that is proposed for nomination. Over the next two decades Isaac and Mary Tate seem to have maintained a comfortable lifestyle. While not wealthy, Isaac Tate owned several slaves, considerable land, and the flatboat landing and warehouse. His land holdings varied, reaching 517 acres in 1837. In 1847 he sold approximately 50 acres of the original farm, the deed reading "... said survey being the tract on which said Tates now live."<sup>8</sup>

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 9

Isaac Tate Farm

Taylor Co., KY

By 1845 Isaac Tate seems to have transferred some of his assets, although none of his land, to his son, Robert Stuart, then 23. Robert Tate appears in the tax rolls for the first time in 1843, but no assets are listed in his name. In 1845 Isaac Tate owned 517 acres worth \$4,769. He owned four slaves, three of whom were over 16 years of age. Robert is listed as owning one slave younger than 16. Isaac owned 10 horses/mares and 16 cattle while Robert owned 5 horses and 8 cattle.<sup>9</sup>

By the mid-1840s the population of Green County, depleted when Adair and Cumberland was subtracted from its borders, had again risen to over 14,000, and petitions for the formation of a new county were being heard. In 1848 Taylor County, taken entirely from the northwest portion of Green County, was formed. Campbellsville was designated as the county seat. By 1850 the new county had a population of 7,250. Of that number twenty-three percent were slaves.<sup>10</sup>

The first agricultural census, conducted in 1850, provides a detailed look at the Isaac Tate farm. Although a rather large farm for the area, it was in most respects typical of farms in the southeast region of the Pennyroyal. The Tate farm was a diversified operation, typical of family farms where much of the production was consumed on the farm and the excess sold. Horses, cows, hogs, and sheep, all necessary for a farm family's livelihood, were present on the Tate farm. Many families also bred some livestock for market; hogs, especially, were inexpensive to raise and market. Abundant woodland pasture, water and corn made the Pennyroyal one of the principal hog producing areas in America in the antebellum period. By 1850 44% of the hogs raised in Kentucky were raised in the Pennyroyal. The number of swine on the Tate farm, 50, indicates that hogs were being raised for market as well as home consumption.<sup>11</sup>

By 1820 sheep were a fairly sizable industry in Kentucky and contributed significantly to the economy of the Pennyroyal region where, by 1850, 40 % of the sheep in Kentucky were raised. The 70 sheep on the Tate farm may have been raised for meat but, given the tastes of most Kentuckians of the time, wool was the more probable product and, in fact, 90 pounds of wool was on hand when the census was taken on June 1. Wool was important both for domestic weaving and for sale to factories in Louisville and Cincinnati. There was also a market for mutton in the urban centers to the south.<sup>12</sup>

The number of cattle, 20, indicates that Isaac Tate may also have been producing beef for sale as well as home consumption. In addition, Tate kept 6 milch cows. One would expect to find mules listed in the Tate farm inventory. By 1850 mules, bred for sale and export in the Bluegrass, had for the most part replaced horses for hauling, plowing, pulling mowing and reaping machines, and other heavy farm work both in the Pennyroyal and in other areas. Isaac Tate, who owned 12 horses and no mules, may simply have been a traditionalist. It seems unlikely that he was unable to afford mules should he have wished to purchase them.<sup>13</sup>

Five tons of hay was harvested on the Tate farm in 1849. Indian corn, which fed both livestock and farm families, was the farm's largest crop, with 1,500 bushels. Corn was the staple crop on most Pennyroyal farms

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

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number      8      Page      10

Isaac Tate Farm

Taylor Co., KY

---

during the antebellum period and corn, rather than tobacco, was also the major cash crop. Items produced both for home use and for cash income include 1,200 pounds of tobacco, 300 pounds of butter, 75 pounds of flax, five bushels of flaxseed and 50 pounds of beeswax and honey. Minor crops that were probably grown for home use included wheat, peas/beans, Irish potatoes, sweet potatoes, and orchard produce.<sup>14</sup>

The picture that emerges from the agricultural census is that of a prosperous family farm. More than enough was being produced to feed the household, which consisted of Tate, his wife, Mary, their son, Robert, Robert's wife, Dorothy, their two children, and five slaves. A considerable surplus would have been available for sale outside of the farm and Isaac Tate, who owned a flatboat landing, was in a better position to transport his goods to market than most.<sup>15</sup>

Isaac Tate died on September 20, 1852 at the age of 75, leaving a sizable estate. His wife received a life estate in the house and kitchen, his slaves, Henry, Felix and Martha, two dairy cows, a horse, nine shares in the Northern Bank of Kentucky and \$50 "in money." To his son, Robert Stuart, he left the "tract of land on which I now live, containing near 400 acres," all of the farming utensils, including wagon and harness, shop tools, firearms, and one-half of the horses, sheep, cattle, and hogs. The remainder of his estate was to be equally divided between his three married daughters, Nancy J. C. Lisle, Sarah E. McElroy and Mary A. Allen.<sup>16</sup>

The inventory of Isaac Tate's estate provides a further glimpse into the farming operation. The livestock consisted of 8 head of horses valued at \$370; 49 head of sheep; 14 head of cattle valued at \$92; 4 sows and 24 pigs; 27 hogs; and 2 mules (one lame). No quantities are listed for the crops, which included hay, flax, oats, corn, wheat in the sheaf, and fodder. Other items include one loom, reeds, and harness; 2/3 interest in a pair of scales, 2 pair of steelyards, one carryall and harness, and one wind mill. Two raw hides, leather, and 2¼ pounds salt are also listed.<sup>17</sup>

Isaac Tate seems to have been a respected member of the community. He acted as trustee or executor for the estates of a number of individuals over the years. He was an elder in the Bethel Presbyterian Church, which was founded by those couples that had immigrated to the area in 1801. For many years he also served as the church's clerk.<sup>18</sup>

The decade 1850-1860 was one of the most promising in Kentucky agricultural history. Markets for Kentucky farm products and livestock, opened by improvements in transportation, flourished. Improvement of the Green River, construction of major turnpikes such as the Louisville-Nashville and the Lexington-Nashville and turnpikes connecting county seat towns, such as the Greensburg-Columbia Pike, all helped open markets for farm products as well as manufactured goods.<sup>19</sup>

In the decade before the Civil War, farms had reached their highest level of productivity yet. Trade with the lower south, begun with the flatboat trade at the beginning of the century, flourished and grew rapidly in the

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 11

Isaac Tate Farm

Taylor Co., KY

steamboat era. Increasing farm production and trade brought increasing demands for railway connections with the South. The Louisville & Nashville Railroad was chartered in 1852 in response to this pressure.<sup>20</sup>

Robert Tate, about 31 years of age when his father died, made few changes after he assumed ownership of the Tate farm. No doubt the opening of the Columbia-Greensburg Turnpike, which ran in front of the Tate farm, made it easier to transport goods to either county seat town. Between 1850 and 1860 Robert Tate increased hog production on the farm and continued to keep about the same number of sheep, whereas cattle seemed to have declined in overall importance. The numbers of hogs (100), sheep (60) and cattle (12) on the Tate farm reflect the relative importance that these livestock animals had in the region as a whole. Indian corn remained the principal grain and, as in years past, minor amounts of wheat and oats were grown for home use, as were small quantities of Irish potatoes, sweet potatoes, and peas/beans. Eight milch cows were kept and 400 pounds of butter produced, some of which may have been sold.<sup>21</sup>

Three other notable changes occurred that, again, reflect wider trends in Kentucky agriculture. Flax, almost universally grown on the family farm since earliest settlement, was no longer listed on the 1860 census form, although flaxseed was still listed. As cotton production soared and manufactured yard goods became increasingly available flax declined in importance for both home use and as a commercial product. The Tate farm, which produced 75 pounds of flax and five bushels of flaxseed in 1849, produced none in 1859.<sup>22</sup>

On the other hand, tobacco production tripled, from 1,200 pounds in 1850 to 5,000 pounds in 1860. Tobacco seeds could be found in the goods of almost every party of settlers, who found the soils in the state well suited to tobacco cultivation. The soils in much of the Pennyroyal proved well suited to the growing of dark tobacco, which soon became the center of tobacco production in the state. Tobacco became an important cash crop in the Taylor County and the surrounding area where almost every farm grew at least some. Demand for tobacco continued to increase and, as it became easier to transport agricultural goods by road to railheads, it became financially advantageous to grow more tobacco.<sup>23</sup>

The third change on the Tate farm was a shift toward mule power. In 1850 there were no mules on the Tate farm but by 1855 there were 7, and in 1860 mules on the Tate farm outnumbered horses 11 to 9. This change reflects a growing trend to employ mules rather than horses for most of the heavy farm work such as plowing, hauling, and mowing.<sup>24</sup>

The Tate farm is located in the southeastern region of the Pennyroyal, an area that includes Barren, Green, Metcalfe, Monroe and Taylor counties. The landscape in this area is marked by sharper relief and has a smaller percentage of tillable area than other portions of the Pennyroyal. Soils are also less productive. Farmers in this area had limited access to markets in the antebellum era. In these years rivers served as Kentucky's transportation arteries, and even though a series of four locks and dams had been constructed on the lower Green River

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 12

Isaac Tate Farm

Taylor Co., KY

by 1842, these improvements had no effect on the river above Bowling Green. While steamboats made regular runs below Bowling Green, above that point the river was navigable only by keelboat or flatboat, and then only during times of high water. There were exceptions. One steamboat, the *Sally Anderson*, managed to reach Greensburg in 1851 during a time of exceptionally high water.<sup>25</sup>

Because of the landscape, soils, and isolation, the majority of antebellum farms in Taylor County and the southeastern Pennyroyal were subsistence farms. Families raised what they needed for home use and sold whatever surplus there was to bring in cash for items that could not be produced at home. The Tate farm, however, was hardly a subsistence farm. At 500 acres it was almost double the size of the average farm in Kentucky in 1850. It had more in common with farms in the western and northern areas of the Pennyroyal, where more farmers were engaged in raising crops and livestock for sale to outside markets. These prosperous, large farms supported multiple outbuildings in addition to the family's dwelling, carriage house, kitchen, washhouse and "necessary."<sup>26</sup>

Isaac Tate, while not wealthy, was comfortably well off. His home was that of a well to do man. Outbuildings on the antebellum Tate farm included a log stock barn, corn crib, and smokehouse. Given the fact that he owned eight slaves in 1860, it is likely that there was at least one slave dwelling. Pork, beef, corn, tobacco, and wool were produced in commercial quantities. Despite its limitations as a navigable waterway, the Green River was an important early transportation route for Green and Taylor counties and Tate owned and operated a flatboat landing and warehouse on its banks that carried tobacco and probably corn, lumber and other products downriver to markets as far away as New Orleans.<sup>27</sup>

*The Civil War and Post War Years, 1860-1870*

The advent of the Civil War had an immediate and adverse effect on farmers in the Pennyroyal. The once lucrative southern market, so important to farmers in the region, was totally cut off. As the war continued, farmers faced recurring losses of meat, grain, vegetables and livestock to raiding parties and legitimate government requisition. Crops in the fields and pasture were destroyed by passing armies. By war's end turnpikes, brutalized by the passage of hundreds of wagons and thousands of horses and men, had become rutted and in many cases virtually impassable.<sup>28</sup>

Union forces were first stationed to protect the Green River bridge at Tebbs Bend on the Greensburg-Campbellsville turnpike in 1861 and a Union presence was maintained throughout most of the war. During John Hunt Morgan's Christmas Raid, troops were pulled from the bridge and sent to Lebanon, where the Federal commander hoped to capture Morgan as he made an anticipated attack on the railroad. In their absence, John Hunt Morgan burned the Green River bridge on New Year's Day, 1863. He also set fire to Union stores and the stockade on the south side of the river.<sup>29</sup>

In mid-June 1863 the 25<sup>th</sup> Michigan Volunteer Infantry under the command of Col. Orlando Moore was



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 13

Isaac Tate Farm

Taylor Co., KY

---

stationed at the Green River bridge. The regiment established a camp on the Tate farm, on a knoll overlooking the river and the bridge. Moore's regiment was encamped at the bridge when Morgan entered the Commonwealth at Burkesville on July 2, 1863 and began his Great Raid. Morgan's forces, 2,500 men strong, spent the night of July 3 at Cane Valley, a village on the turnpike about five miles to the south Moore's position. Morgan planned to defeat Moore's small force of about 200 and then cross his troops on the Green River bridge. Before sunrise on the morning of July 4 Morgan marched down the turnpike toward the Union position.<sup>30</sup>

In the battle that followed, Moore's force held its position in the face of repeated Confederate charges. A skirmish between Confederate troops and the 8<sup>th</sup> Michigan took place on the Tate bottomland. Confederate troops waited in vain near Tate's landing for the Union forces to capitulate. After a flanking maneuver led by Confederate Colonel David Chenault was repulsed Moore sounded his bugle and Union troops began to advance. The Southern forces, believing that Union reinforcements had arrived, withdrew from the field.<sup>31</sup>

Exactly how the Civil War, the battle of Tebbs Bend, or the presence of Union troops encamped on and near the Tate farm affected the family or the farming operation is unknown. The 1865 tax assessment records, for tax year 1864, do reflect changes in the farm's assets. Most dramatic was the absence of horses and mules. In 1860 the Tate's owned 9 horses and 12 mules but in 1865 only one mule was reported. The number of hogs on the farm dropped from 40 to 30 but the number of cattle actually rose, from 15 in 1860 to 17 in 1865. No corn was reported at all, but the number of tons of hay produced doubled, from 5 tons in 1860 to 10 tons in 1865. Tobacco production for 1864 also increased, reaching 6,000 pounds. Slavery had not been abolished in Kentucky in June 1865 when the property assessment was made and ten slaves, three under the age of 16, were reported, as opposed to eight in 1860.<sup>32</sup>

Whether the changes in crop production and livestock holdings can be attributed to the war is unknown. The absence of horses and mules almost certainly reflects the hardships of war. It was impossible to run a farm without their power and their loss would have severely affected the ability of the Tate family to farm their land. The absence of mules may explain why no corn was grown. Without a team a mules it may have been impossible to prepare the fields. Tobacco, on the other hand, needs less acreage to produce a sizable cash crop and more of the work was done by hand. A year after the war production on the Tate farm had begun to return to pre-war levels. By 1866 the farm had 3 horses and 2 mules. Ten tons of hay, 1,500 bushels corn, 85 bushels wheat, and 5,500 pounds tobacco were produced.<sup>33</sup>

The Civil War was a devastating event for Kentucky agriculture, its toll impossible to quantify. Before the war the Commonwealth was fifth in the nation in the value of its livestock and farm products and ranked highly in the production of horses, mules, cattle, hogs, and sheep. The four years of war, "marked an economic and political watershed in the field of Kentucky agriculture." After 1865 Kentucky never regained the standing it once had in the area of comparative agricultural statistics. Kentucky livestock producers found it difficult to compete with the rising western cattle industry, hog producers in the corn belt of the Midwest, or mule-breeders in Tennessee

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 14

Isaac Tate Farm

Taylor Co., KY

and Missouri. Its farmers faced increasing competition from the states of the old northwest - Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, and Michigan - where the demands of the war had stimulated production to never before seen levels.<sup>34</sup>

*The Late 19<sup>th</sup> Century, 1870-1900*

In 1870 the Tate household consisted of Robert S. Tate, 49, who listed his occupation as farmer, his wife, Amanda, 47, and their children, Mary, 22, Isaac, 18, D. Lisle, 14, Annie, 12, and James W., 10. Also listed in the household are John W. Walls, 35, a farm laborer; a black woman, America Roach, 22, who worked as a house servant, and her daughter Allice, 3; and a black man, Aaron Dudgeon, 23, a farm laborer.

After the war some farms suffered a shortage of labor as former slaves left the farms to which they had been attached. The Tates, however, seem not to have been among that number. In 1865, just prior to the emancipation of slaves in Kentucky, Robert Tate owned ten slaves, three older than 16 years and seven younger. It seems likely, based on later census records, that these individuals remained on the Tate farm as tenants. Two black families named Tate are listed as residing in the two households adjacent to Robert Tate's in the 1870 census. Although further research is needed to validate the assumption, it is reasonable to suppose that these families were tenants on the Tate farm. Neither head of household, both listed as farmers, owned any real estate.<sup>35</sup>

The Tate farm in 1870 consisted of 357 acres, 214 described as unimproved and 143 as improved. The livestock holdings, 6 milch cows, 45 swine, and 10 cattle, were comparable to those before the war, although sheep were absent. There were 24 mules, up from 4 in 1870 tax assessment, and 8 horses.<sup>36</sup>

Hogs and sheep, important livestock animals in the Pennyroyal as a whole, had comprised a sizable part of the Tate farm assets since at least 1850 when documentation of the farm's livestock holdings begins. The number of hogs on the Tate farm seems to have reached a peak about 1850. Over the next two decades, 30-45 hogs could be found on the farm, the number reaching its lowest point in 1885 when only two hogs, probably kept for home consumption, were present.<sup>37</sup>

Although hogs remained fairly steady, the number of sheep on the Tate farm fluctuated. In 1850 and 1860 there were 70 and 60 sheep on the Tate farm respectively, but by 1870, there were none reported in the agricultural census. By that year the tax assessment record for Taylor County had begun asking taxpayers to report the number of dogs they owned over two, the number of sheep killed by dogs, and the value of sheep killed by dogs, but no losses were reported by Robert Tate. The appearance of these questions in the tax books reflects a growing problem in the Commonwealth, with packs of vagrant dogs attacking flocks of sheep. Whatever the reason for the decline in sheep on the Tate farm, by 1880 the number of sheep had risen to an all time high of 101. After that year sheep again declined in importance. By the turn of the century they were again no longer present on the Tate farm. The discontinuation of sheep on the Tate farm reflects the decline in the sheep industry in Kentucky as a whole. Vagrant dogs continued to be a problem, one that legislators refused to act upon because of its political ramifications. In many places keeping sheep became economically unviable and the

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

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number      8      Page      15

Isaac Tate Farm

Taylor Co., KY

---

industry declined across the Commonwealth.<sup>38</sup>

One of the greatest changes on the Tate farm in the late-19<sup>th</sup> century was in tobacco production. By 1880 tobacco was no longer being grown on the Tate farm. The most likely explanation is the decline in tobacco prices after 1870. Farmers could make a profit as long as tobacco prices remained at from eight to 12 cents a pound. In 1867 the price of dark tobacco, the only type grown commercially in Kentucky at that time, was 13 cents a pound. Prices began to fall shortly thereafter, and by 1880, the price per pound had dropped to five-and-a-half cents, well below the cost of production.<sup>39</sup>

During the same years that the price of dark tobacco was plummeting, farmers in the Bluegrass were experimenting with burley tobacco. Burley was introduced to Kentucky in about 1864. In 1867 hands of burley were exhibited in the St. Louis Fair and Exposition. Demand for burley, which was favored because of its ability to hold the sweeteners popular in plug tobacco, rose rapidly and within a few years it became a staple cash crop on many Bluegrass farms. While growers of dark tobacco could not make enough to pay the cost of production, growers of burley were making a profit.<sup>40</sup>

By 1900 the American Tobacco Company had formed one of the largest industrial monopolies in the United States. Every aspect of the industry, including prices paid for tobacco, came under its control. By 1903 the price was so low that tobacco that cost \$42 per acre to produce brought only \$28 per acre on the sales floor. The Dark Tobacco District Planter's Protective Association of Kentucky and Tennessee was formed to combat the situation. By 1905 hostilities between Association members and non-members had erupted in violence. Lawsuits against leaders of the Association ended most of the violence by 1908.<sup>41</sup>

Because almost every farmer in the Pennyroyal grew at least a small patch of tobacco, they were affected, to some extent, by falling tobacco prices and the Tobacco or Black Patch War. Tobacco had been a major product of the Tate farm since at least 1850, when the agricultural census indicates that 1,200 pounds were grown. Production reached 6,000 pounds in the late 1860s. In 1870 only 2,000 pounds were harvested and by 1880, when prices had substantially declined, the Tates had stopped producing tobacco, once a major income-producing product for the Tate family. Tobacco was not grown again on the farm until well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>42</sup>

By 1880 Robert Tate and his son, Isaac, appear as co-owners of the farm's livestock, Robert claiming a 2/3 share of the 5 horses, 28 mules and 30 head of cattle and Isaac a 1/3 share. Robert, however, retained all claim to the land and crops. By 1885 all of the livestock with the exception of two horses was being declared in the tax assessment records under Robert S. Tate and Sons, Robert Tate still retaining all claim to the land and crops. It seems clear that Robert Tate, then in his 60s, was relinquishing some of his control over the farm to his sons.<sup>43</sup>

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 16

Isaac Tate Farm

Taylor Co., KY

When Robert S. Tate died May 15, 1886 he left a sizable estate. His two sons, Isaac and James Waller, inherited the "farm on which I now live containing about 393 acres," all of the farming implements (wagon, machines, ploughs, hoes, axes, saws, gearing, mills, hogsheads, barrels, etc. are mentioned), his crops, stock, household and kitchen furniture, and \$900 to be divided between them. Also bequeathed was "my interest in the weighing scales located near Mr. Caldwell's Gate."

To his wife, Amanda, he bequeathed two \$1,000 bonds on the city of Louisville given for the Elizabethtown & Paducah Railroad, two \$500 Taylor County bonds "given for the Rail Road," \$900 in money, a horse, buggy, and harness, a cow, and some household furnishings. A bequest of \$50 was left to Minnie, "a servant," who was probably Minnie B. Bridgewater, a young black woman listed in the 1880 census as living in the Tate household. The remainder of his property, both personal and real, was to be divided into four equal parts for his daughter, Mary P. Edmonds, his son, D. Lisle Thomas Tate, his daughter, Annie M. McElroy, and the four children of his deceased daughter, Sophia W. Irvine.<sup>44</sup>

Robert Tate lived long enough to see Taylor County and the surrounding region regain a degree of stability and prosperity in the 15 years following the Civil War. During that time the Pennyroyal was crisscrossed with railroads, opening new markets and bringing commercial goods from the outside. Robert Tate, like many others, had purchased bonds supporting railroad construction, which was seen as vital to every county's economic future. A railroad connecting Lebanon to Greensburg via Campbellsville opened in October 1879, connecting the county to the main L&N line at Lebanon. At last, Taylor County had fast and efficient access to the outside world.<sup>45</sup>

Unfortunately, the return of prosperity was fleeting. By the year of Robert Tate's death, prices for all agricultural goods were in decline. The western portion of Kentucky, especially, experienced a depressed economy as a result. The situation was not improved by the recession of 1893. Many farmers in the Pennyroyal would not see the end of their economic misfortunes until the advent of World War I.

In spite of the region's economic difficulties, the last quarter of the nineteenth century seem to have been comfortable years for the Tate family. There was enough money to remodel the family home, enlarging the Federal-style residence and giving it a more modern appearance. An addition was added on the east side of the house, creating the appearance of a T-plan and a porch, supported by columnar supports, was added to the north side.

Sometime between 1860 and the turn of the century a large bank barn was built on the west side of the turnpike road. The upper level of the barn, entered off of the turnpike road, was designed to hold hay and/or vehicles. The lower level, which opened onto a pasture, was designed for livestock. A frame corn crib, positioned on the east side of the turnpike road, was also built, supplementing or replacing the log crib.<sup>46</sup>

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 17

Isaac Tate Farm

Taylor Co., KY

*The 20<sup>th</sup> Century*

Documenting the Isaac Tate farm in any detail becomes more difficult after 1892. After that year tax assessment records for Taylor County are fragmentary. Furthermore, with each passing decade after the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, less and less detail regarding crops and livestock was required until, in the late 1940s, specific farm production categories no longer appear. After 1880 the agricultural census, which provides detailed information concerning individual farms beginning in 1850, becomes more general. The 1890 census was destroyed, and by 1900, the published census reports compile data by county and/or district rather than listing individual farms.

The Tate farm was owned jointly by Isaac Tate and his younger brother, James Waller Tate, until at least 1892. By 1901, however, the land was owned by Isaac Tate alone. The information available indicates that Isaac Tate scaled back his farm operation in the last years of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Whether the change was due to choice or forced by circumstances is unknown. In 1901 he reported owning two common stock horses, seven mules and one jack. He kept 25 common cows and 17 hogs. Columns for hay, corn, wheat, and oats appear in the property tax assessment books but no quantities were listed by Isaac Tate. Tate seemed to have been fairly well off, however, for among his taxable possessions he declared a piano-forte worth \$20 and \$15 of gold or silver plated ware.<sup>47</sup>

Six years into the new century the Isaac Tate farm, which had been owned and operated by three generations of the Tate family, was sold outside of the family. On January 1, 1906 Isaac Tate, then about 54, his wife, and Amanda Tate (wife of Robert Tate) conveyed to Henry A. Buchanan "392 acres m/l on Green River." According to the deed, this was the tract that Robert S. Tate had been living on at the time of his death.<sup>48</sup>

When Henry Buchanan purchased the property, the farmstead was comprised of a number of structures arranged along both sides of the old turnpike road. At the north end of the property was the recently remodeled residence. In the yard behind the house was a small one-story frame building, which may have been a kitchen, and a meathouse. Further to the rear of the house was the privy. South of the domestic complex, on the west side of the turnpike, was the large bank barn. Behind the bank barn stood an old log corn crib and a log barn. Further down the road stood three small one-and-one-half or two-story tenant houses, each with two front doors. Opposite the tenant houses stood a third barn. South of the family house on the opposite side of the road was a blacksmith shop, a chicken house or houses, and a frame corn crib. Henry A. "Buck" Buchanan bought the Isaac Tate property when he was 28 or 29. According to his son, Henry Allen Buchanan, "everybody said that Henry Buchanan bought the highest priced farm in Taylor County, \$14,000, and that he would never pay for it." This prophecy proved untrue.<sup>49</sup>

Under Henry Buchanan the farm seems to have been run much as it had been by the Tates. In the early years of his ownership corn, hay, and wheat were the principal crops. Later, soybeans were added to the crop roster. The Federal government broke up the American Tobacco Company monopoly in 1911. That event, in combina-

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 18

Isaac Tate Farm

Taylor Co., KY

tion with the advent of the loose-leaf auction system and the rising popularity of the blended cigarette, made tobacco an extremely attractive crop once more. After tobacco prices recovered, Buchanan began growing tobacco but, like most farmers in those counties with suitable soils, he grew burley rather than the dark tobacco traditionally grown in the Pennyroyal. Initially, Buchanan used teams of mules for all of the farm's heavy work. That changed in 1918 when Henry Buchanan purchased a Case tractor. A second tractor, a Fordson, was acquired about 1920.<sup>50</sup>

Like the Tates and most farmers in Taylor County, Buchanan raised cattle and hogs, some of which were slaughtered on the farm and sold to Hoskins Grocery in Campbellsville, which he regularly supplied with meat. His son recalled one morning about 1930 when 23 hogs were slaughtered. Beef cattle were fattened and an average of one delivered to the grocery every two weeks. Henry Buchanan raised mostly Aberdeen-Angus cattle, keeping 50 to 100 through the winter. Sheep were rarely kept on the farm because attacks by vagrant dogs, a problem since the mid-1800s, persisted.<sup>51</sup>

Like many family farms the Buchanan farm, produced its own meat and eggs. Sausages were made on the farm. Meat was cured in the meathouse, often referred to as the smokehouse, although it was salt, not smoke, that was used to preserve pork. Four cows provided milk, butter, and buttermilk. South of the house, at some distance, was an apple orchard. A large vegetable garden, over an acre in size, was located behind the family residence. This garden supplied fresh vegetables for immediate consumption but much of the yield was preserved. The canning operation was supervised by Mrs. Buchanan but the actual labor provided by black help. The Buchanan's black tenants lived in the three small houses located south of the bank barn.<sup>52</sup>

About 1922 the Buchanans remodeled and enlarged the family residence. The façade was altered to imitate the popular Bungalow house style, and the brick covered with stucco. A dormer was added to the front of the roof above the front porch. The symmetrically placed front porch supports were replaced by asymmetrically arranged pyramidal supports of cut limestone and wood.<sup>53</sup>

Henry Buchanan also made a number of changes to the farm's outbuildings. About 1925 the old meathouse was replaced by a modern concrete block structure. John Minor, from the Mannsville area, was hired to remodel the log barn behind the bank barn. It was sided with vertical plank and transformed into a tobacco barn, a necessity for burley tobacco, which was air-cured. Early in his ownership, Buchanan hired Charlie Tharp to build a mule barn immediately north of the frame corn crib. In 1914 he had a silo constructed in front of the bank barn. The barn opposite the tenant houses burned in 1940, and Buchanan replaced it with a new tobacco barn.<sup>54</sup>

Although the Depression affected all farmers, it was hardest for those farmers engaged in commercial farming. Dropping livestock and crop prices led many farmers to lose their land when rents and mortgages could not be met. Because they were more self-sufficient and less dependent on outside markets, residents in subsistence farming areas were less affected. Most New Deal programs brought little relief. According to Jarratt, "1940.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 19

Isaac Tate Farm

Taylor Co., KY

found many of the Pennyroyal's rural inhabitants living much as they had fifty years before with no electricity, few conveniences such as indoor plumbing, little new machinery, and high debt."<sup>55</sup>

The Buchanan farm, like the Tate farm, seems to have fallen somewhere between a strictly commercial farm and a subsistence farm. It was certainly larger than most farms in Taylor County, the average being about 70 acres in 1930. The farm produced a diverse number of products, including many for home consumption. Pork, beef and tobacco seem to have been the farm's major commercial products. Henry Buchanan held on to the farm throughout the Depression. There is no documentation of the Depression's effect on the Buchanan farm but the 1938 tax records indicate a decline in the number of cows and hogs, the principal animals sold outside the farm. In that year Henry Buchanan reported 25 cattle and seven hogs. He also reported one horse and four mules. Unlike many farmers, however, he owned two automobiles and one truck. The total value of his farm implements was put at \$300. The farm he had paid \$14,000 for in 1906 was then valued for tax purposes at \$8,450<sup>56</sup>

The advent of the modern, scientific era in Kentucky agriculture began in 1865 when the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Kentucky University was founded under the Morrill Land Grant Act. Scientific agriculture was further benefited when the Kentucky General Assembly enacted an all-embracing law creating a bureau of agriculture, horticulture, and statistics in 1876. But it was not until the 20<sup>th</sup> century that new methods of farming, soil management, plant breeding, and livestock production began to gain a wide acceptance among Kentucky farmers. Hybrids of staple field crops such as corn resulted in dramatically improved yields. Strains of disease-resistant burley tobacco were developed. These and other changes made it possible for farmers to produce more and better crops on less land.<sup>57</sup>

The second quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century brought a number of technological advances that changed the farm. Under leadership of County Agent C. V. Bryan, who held that office from 1924-1962, Taylor County made remarkable strides in agriculture. In those years a University of Kentucky Soil Experimental Station was established. He introduced fescue, hybrid seed corn and purebred dairy cattle, established the Farm Bureau, and improved egg, milk, and wool production. In 1927 the Taylor County Stockyards, serving a twelve-county area, was established.<sup>58</sup>

Between 1920 and 1950, advancing technology brought a number of changes to the Buchanan farm. By about 1925 the farm was connected to the outside world by a five-party telephone. The Taylor County RECC began providing electricity to about 400 rural families in 1940 and electric power came to the Buchanan farm about 1947. By about 1920 water was being brought to the house by means of a pump that drew water from the stream flowing from the cave spring beneath the house. The water was pumped into a huge iron cistern on the upper level of the house. From there, it was gravity fed to the lower level of the house. Long before most of their neighbors, the Buchanan's were able to abandon the outhouse that stood to the rear of the residence. In the 1940s, when the Tennessee Gas pipeline was being built, an oil well was drilled in the field north of the

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

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number      8      Page      20

Isaac Tate Farm

Taylor Co., KY

---

house. During the drilling a deep water well was located. Mr. Buchanan built a well house and ran pipe from the well to the house and to each of the farm fields.<sup>59</sup>

The advent of World War II brought an assured market for agricultural products. The demand for tobacco soared as cigarettes became more popular among soldiers overseas and with factory workers, especially women, at home. The 1940s and 50s were years of transition in the Pennyroyal. Agriculture remained the most important economic force in Taylor County, where over 89% of the land area of the county was in farms in 1950. Some farmers, like Henry Buchanan, embraced the changes brought by the application of scientific farming methods, mechanization and electricity while others clung to the traditional farming methods learned from their fathers and grandfathers. Even as technology changed, tobacco, wheat and corn remained the region's most important cash crops, with Taylor County one of top ten tobacco producers. Livestock production continued to be a major component of Pennyroyal agriculture. Hogs and beef cattle led in importance although sheep regained some of the stature they had once had. On many farms mules remained important until after World War II.<sup>60</sup>

Under Henry Buchanan's ownership the farm escaped the fate that befell many family farms in Kentucky between 1900 and 1940. During that time a great many Kentucky farms were subdivided, as family members settled on homeplaces. In Taylor County, the farm size fell to 87.4 acres in 1950. At 355 acres the Buchanan farm was one of the few large farms in the county. Many farms produced insufficient capital to justify the purchase of modern implements or to make improvements. This was certainly not the case on the Buchanan farm. As with the Tates, the farm was worked with the assistance of a son or sons but ownership remained with the head of the family. The Buchanans had the resources to either construct or modify several outbuildings and to remodel the family residence. Between 1906 and 1948 at least two tractors, two automobiles and a truck were purchased.<sup>61</sup>

Henry Buchanan lived and worked on the farm until his death in 1954 at the age of 77. Toward the end of his life Mr. Buchanan reduced the scale of his farming activities, growing tobacco and about 30 acres of corn and keeping a few cattle. He also kept eight or ten mules, which he used for logging. In his last years most of his attention was devoted to a sawmill that he owned.<sup>62</sup>

Three years after Henry Buchanan's death, on November 29, 1957, his widow, Bessie G. Buchanan, and others conveyed 355 acres to Albert Hall and his son, Carl. In 1971 farm ownership passed to Carl Hall and his wife, Fannie, and Buster Hall (Carl's brother) and his wife, Peggy. The Halls began their farming operation in 1958 with about 20 registered Angus cattle and seven brood sows. Their only equipment was a tractor and a plow. It was not long before the Hall family had substantially enlarged their operation.<sup>63</sup>

From the beginning, livestock was the focus of the Hall operation. From seven brood sows, the hog operation grew, at its peak, to 600 hogs being kept on the farm at any given time. To accommodate the animals a hog



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

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number      8      Page      21

Isaac Tate Farm

Taylor Co., KY

---

shed was added to the north side of the tobacco barn behind the bank barn. After a few years hogs proved to be too much trouble and too prone to disease and the hog operation was discontinued. After that time, the tobacco/hog barn was used to feed cattle.<sup>64</sup>

Cattle were the second component of the livestock operation and soon absorbed all of the Hall's attention. Angus cattle were replaced by Black-faced Whites, which the Halls felt were more suited to their operation. One thousand cattle were run through the operation in any given year, with about 400 cattle being kept on the farm at any one time. Several buildings were modified to accommodate the growing cattle operation. A 12 x 40 foot silo was added to the mule barn in 1962. A loafing shed and cattle chute was added to the mule barn between 1965 and 1970, replacing the loafing shed added to the bank barn by the Buchanans, which was removed. The bank barn, the mule barn, and the older tobacco barn were all used for feeding cattle until 1980 when a modern feedlot and 70-foot silo were constructed near the site of the tenant houses. Six years later the height of the silo was raised ten feet.<sup>65</sup>

In the beginning almost all of the beef produced on the Hall farm was sold to packinghouses in Louisville where six or seven establishments were always buying. By the 1980s the beef market had moved west and the Halls were forced to find buyers as far away as Wisconsin in order to get a reasonable price.<sup>66</sup>

The Halls grew all of the hay they needed for their cattle operation and they also planted 140 acres of feed corn annually. Initially, corn was dried and stored in the corn crib. In 1970 two metal grain storage bins were built to store shelled corn. Silage was stored in the 1914 silo and, after 1962, in the silo adjacent to the mule barn. After the new silo was constructed in 1980, the 1914 silo, which was difficult to load and unload, was no longer used. Nine acres of wheat and 90 acres of soybeans, which were often double cropped, were also grown on the Hall farm. Six acres of tobacco completed their cropping operation. Although tractors were used for almost all of plowing, planting and harvesting, Albert Hall refused to use a tractor in the tobacco plot, keeping a team of mules just for that purpose.<sup>67</sup>

During the time the Hall family owned the farm, 1957-2001, considerable changes were made to the farmstead. A number of the older buildings, which were no longer used, were taken down. The outhouse, washhouse (which Buster Hall lived in for several years), and the three tenant houses were demolished, as were the chicken houses and the log corn crib. The tobacco barn built in 1940 was resided but not modified.<sup>68</sup>

The Hall family successfully operated the farm for over 43 years. They purchased approximately 40 acres of the original farm that had been sold by Henry Buchanan, bringing the farm's acreage back to that passed on from Isaac Tate to Robert Tate in 1852. In April 2001, wishing to see the land remain intact and undeveloped, they sold the farm, 392.38 acres, to The Nature Conservancy. A portion of that land was then conveyed to Taylor County and on January 17, 2003 Taylor County, Kentucky conveyed 219.24 acres to The Homeplace on Green River, Inc. a Kentucky non-profit corporation.<sup>69</sup>

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 22

Isaac Tate Farm

Taylor Co., KY

---

**Conclusion**

The Isaac Tate Farm is extraordinary in having been owned by only three families in its 200 year history as a family farm. Even more remarkable is the fact that the “near 400 acres” left by Isaac Tate to his son, Robert, in 1852 has survived intact.

The history of the Isaac Tate Farm reflects the changing history of agriculture in Taylor County and the southeast Pennyroyal. Data concerning the types of livestock raised and the crops grown or not grown on the Tate Farm are indicative of not only local but regional events and circumstances. The Tate Farm was a family farm but it was not a subsistence farm. Each generation of owners produced considerable farm products for local, regional and distant markets. The owners of the Tate farm were, of necessity, attuned to changes in the marketplace and were aware of what was taking place outside of the farm’s boundaries.

The physical changes made to the farmstead reflect changes in rural lifestyles and in the science of agriculture. Although prosperous, the Tate Farm was never a “gentleman’s farm.” It was always a working farm, one which had to earn its keep to survive. The families that owned the Tate Farm sought to integrate the latest farming methods and technology into their operation. They were concerned with what was efficient and practical. They had to be. Isaac Tate carved a successful farm out of the wilderness. Each successive owner has tried to build upon and improve the farm that came under their care. In doing so they have left a record of the changing face of agriculture in their corner of Kentucky

The Tate farm has retained its integrity of location, setting, design, materials, association, and feeling. The 392.38 acres sold by Hall family to the Nature Conservancy is, substantially, the land passed on to Robert Tate by Isaac Tate in 1852. The original residence constructed by Isaac Tate about 1802 still stands. The old turnpike road, now Hall Road, still passes in front of and along the west side of the house. The farmstead’s outbuildings are situated along either side of the road, retaining their relationship to this historic feature. The bank barn and frame corn crib also remain from the Tate family’s tenure. The original tobacco barn, mule barn, 1914 silo, new tobacco barn, meathouse and wellhouse reflect the Buchanan ownership of the property. The 1962 silo, 1970 grain bins, and 1980 feedlot and silo, while non-contributing, are nonetheless reminders of the 43 years the Hall family owned the farm. While outside of the period of significance they do not, by the very nature of their appropriateness to their setting, detract from the historic farmstead. They simply add another layer to farmstead’s history.

The size of the Tate Farm has helped to insulate it from modern intrusions. The undulating landscape protects the farms’ viewsheds. The Tate Farm is still surrounded by undeveloped land that remains rural in character. The farmstead itself is on a private road, set back more than three-tenths of a mile west of KY 55 and on a ridgetop above the Green River. Between the farmstead and highway are the farm’s agricultural fields. Beyond the farmstead to the west is the Green River bottomland of the Tate Farm, now owned by The Nature Conservancy. Standing in the center of the farmstead, it is not at all difficult to imagine the farm as a busy working 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century farm. All of the elements are there and intact.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 23

Isaac Tate Farm

Taylor Co., KY

---

End Notes

- <sup>1</sup> Betty Mitchell Gorin, "Taylor County" in *The Kentucky Encyclopedia*, John Kleber, Editor in Chief, University Press of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky, 1992, p. 870.
- <sup>2</sup> Lloyd G. Lee, *A Brief History of Kentucky And Its Counties*, Kentucke Imprints, Berea, Kentucky, 1981, pp. 291-293 and 530-531.
- <sup>3</sup> Thomas D. Clark, *Agrarian Kentucky*, The University Press of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky, 1977, pp. 25, 31; Clark, "Agriculture" in *The Kentucky Encyclopedia*, p. 7; Letter from Robert Tate Caldwell to Mrs. George W. Hancock (Amanda Tate Hancock), September 25, 1970.
- <sup>4</sup> Green County Deed Book 4, pp. 26 and 28.
- <sup>5</sup> Betty Jane Gorin, personal communication, March 29, 2004.
- <sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>7</sup> C. Ardell Jarratt, "The Pennyroyal Region" in *Kentucky's Historic Farms*, Turner Publishing Company, Paducah, Kentucky, c.1994, p. 46; Green County, Kentucky Tax Assessment Records, 1805-1830, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives Microfilm, Roll 008004.
- <sup>8</sup> Green County Deed Book 21, p. 119.
- <sup>9</sup> Green County, Kentucky Tax Assessment Records, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives Microfilm, 1843 and 1845, Roll 008005.
- <sup>10</sup> Marshall Lowe and Gary Scott, *Green County Historical Factbook*, Published by the authors, 1970, Greensburg, Kentucky, 1970, p. 12; Lewis Collins, *History of Kentucky*, Collins & Co., Covington, Kentucky, 1882, p. 261.
- <sup>11</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> Census of the United States, 1850, Productions in Agriculture, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives Microfilm, Roll 6; Jarratt, in *Kentucky's Historic Farms*, pp. 47-48.
- <sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>13</sup> Jarratt, in *Kentucky's Historic Farms*, p. 47.
- <sup>14</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> Census of the United States, 1850, Productions in Agriculture.
- <sup>15</sup> *1850 Census of Taylor County, Kentucky*, compiled by Ed Banningfield, Taylor County Historical Society, 1983; Taylor County Tax Assessment Records for 1849, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives Microfilm Roll 008239.
- <sup>16</sup> Taylor County Will Book 1, pp. 45-47.
- <sup>17</sup> Taylor County Inventory and Sales Book 1, p. 221.
- <sup>18</sup> Green County Tax Assessment Records, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives Microfilm, Roll 008004 and 008005; Letter from Robert Tate Caldwell to Mrs. George W. Hancock, September 25, 1970;
- <sup>19</sup> Jarratt, in *Kentucky's Historic Farms*, pp. 47-48; Lowe and Scott, *Green County Historical Factbook*, p. 45.
- <sup>20</sup> Thomas D. Clark, "200 Years of Kentucky Agriculture" in *Kentucky's Historic Farms*, pp. 23-24.
- <sup>21</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> Census of the United States, 1850, Productions in Agriculture; Taylor County, Kentucky Tax Assessment Records for 1855, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives Microfilm, Roll 008239.
- <sup>22</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> Census of the United States, 1860, Schedule 4: Productions in Agriculture, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives Microfilm, Agricultural Census Roll 11; Jarratt, in *Kentucky's Historic Farms*, pp. 45-46.
- <sup>23</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> Census of the United States, 1860, Schedule 4: Productions in Agriculture.
- <sup>24</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> Census of the United States, 1850, Productions in Agriculture; 8<sup>th</sup> Census of the United States, 1860, Schedule 4: Productions in Agriculture; Jarratt, in *Kentucky's Historic Farms*, pp. 45-46.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 24

Isaac Tate Farm

Taylor Co., KY

- 
- <sup>25</sup> Jarratt, in *Kentucky's Historic Farms*, pp. 45-46; Lowe and Scott, *Green County Historical Factbook*, pp. 39-40; Helen Bartter Crocker, *The Green River of Kentucky*, The University Press of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky, 1976, pp. 14-15, 22-23.
- <sup>26</sup> Jarratt, in *Kentucky's Historic Farms*, pp. 45-46; 12<sup>th</sup> Census of the United States, 1900, Volume 5, Agriculture Part I, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives Microfilm.
- <sup>27</sup> Jarratt in *Kentucky's Historic Farms*, pp. 45-46; Lowe and Scott, *Green County Historical Factbook*, pp. 39-40.
- <sup>28</sup> Clark, in *Kentucky's Historic Farms*, p. 26; Jarratt, in *Kentucky's Historic Farms*, p. 49.
- <sup>29</sup> Betty Jane Gorin, personal communication, March 29, 2004.
- <sup>30</sup> Brochure, "Battle of Tebbs Bend at Green River," N.P.; and Betty Jane Gorin, personal communication, March 29, 2004.
- <sup>31</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>32</sup> Taylor County Tax Assessment Records for 1860, Precinct 4, no page, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives Microfilm Roll 008239; Taylor County Tax Assessment Records for 1865, Precinct 4, p. 17, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives Microfilm Roll 008239.
- <sup>33</sup> Taylor County Tax Assessment Records for 1866, Precinct 4, no page, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives Microfilm Roll 008239
- <sup>34</sup> Clark, in *Kentucky's Historic Farms*, p. 26; Thomas D. Clark, "Agriculture," in *The Kentucky Encyclopedia*, pp. 8-9.
- <sup>35</sup> *1870 Census of Taylor County, Kentucky*, compiled and published by DeWayne Wilson, Campbellsville, Kentucky, no date.
- <sup>36</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> Census of the United States, 1870, Schedule 3: Productions in Agriculture, Department for Libraries and Archives Microfilm Roll 17.
- <sup>37</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> Census of the United States, 1850, Productions in Agriculture; 8<sup>th</sup> Census of the United States, 1860, Schedule 4: Productions in Agriculture; 9<sup>th</sup> Census of the United States, 1870, Schedule 3: Productions in Agriculture; 10<sup>th</sup> census of the United States, Agriculture, Department for Libraries and Archives Microfilm Roll 32; Taylor County Tax Assessment Records for 1885, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives Microfilm Roll 008599.
- <sup>38</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> Census of the United States, 1850, Productions in Agriculture; 8<sup>th</sup> Census of the United States, 1860, Schedule 4: Productions in Agriculture; 9<sup>th</sup> Census of the United States, 1870, Schedule 3: Productions in Agriculture; 10<sup>th</sup> census of the United States, Agriculture; Taylor County Tax Assessment Records for 1870; Clark, *Agrarian Kentucky*, pp. 35-36.
- <sup>39</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> Census of the United States, 1850, Productions in Agriculture; 8<sup>th</sup> Census of the United States, 1860, Schedule 4: Productions in Agriculture; 9<sup>th</sup> Census of the United States, 1870, Schedule 3: Productions in Agriculture; 10<sup>th</sup> census of the United States, Agriculture; Taylor County, Kentucky Tax Assessment Records for 1860, 1865, 1866, 1870, 1880, 1885 and 1892; Hambleton Tapp and James C. Klotter, *Kentucky: Decades of Discord*, Kentucky Historical Society, Frankfort, Kentucky, 1977, pp. 294-297.
- <sup>40</sup> Clark, in *Kentucky's Historic Farms*, p. 28; Tapp and Klotter, *Kentucky: Decades of Discord*, pp. 294-297; John Klee, "Tobacco Cultivation," in *The Kentucky Encyclopedia*, p. 885.
- <sup>41</sup> Jarrett, in *Kentucky's Historic Farms*, p. 52; Tapp and Klotter, *Kentucky: Decades of Discord*, pp. 294-297.
- <sup>42</sup> Jarrett, in *Kentucky's Historic Farms*, p. 52; 7<sup>th</sup> Census of the United States, 1850, Productions in Agriculture; 8<sup>th</sup> Census of the United States, 1860, Schedule 4: Productions in Agriculture; 9<sup>th</sup> Census of the United States, 1870, Schedule 3: Productions in Agriculture; 10<sup>th</sup> census of the United States, Agriculture.
- <sup>43</sup> Taylor County, Kentucky Tax Assessment Records, 1880, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives Microfilm Roll 008354.
- <sup>44</sup> Taylor County Will Book 2, pp. 92-93
- <sup>45</sup> Stan McKinney, "Railroad reached end of line last year," *Campbellsville, Kentucky News-Journal*, October 1, 1992; Jarrett, in *Kentucky's Historic Farms*, p. 52.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 25

Isaac Tate Farm

Taylor Co., KY

---

<sup>46</sup> Bill Macintire to Rebecca Nash, report on site visit to the Homeplace, October 22, 2003.

<sup>47</sup> Taylor County Tax Assessment Book for 1901, 4<sup>th</sup> Precinct, p. 15.

<sup>48</sup> Taylor County Deed Book 28, p. 87.

<sup>49</sup> Interview with Henry Allen Buchanan, conducted by Betty Jane Gorin, January 15, 2002.

<sup>50</sup> Interview with Henry Allen Buchanan, January 15, 2002; John Klee, "Tobacco Cultivation," in *The Kentucky Encyclopedia*, pp. 884-887.

<sup>51</sup> Interview with Henry Allen Buchanan, January 15, 2002.

<sup>52</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>53</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>54</sup> Interview with Henry Allen Buchanan, January 15, 2002; Interview with Buster Hall, conducted by Joseph and Maria Brent, January 20, 2004.

<sup>55</sup> Jarratt, in *Kentucky's Historic Farms*, pp. 53-54.

<sup>56</sup> Taylor County Tax Assessment Book for 1939.

<sup>57</sup> Carl B. Cone, "The University of Kentucky" in *The Kentucky Encyclopedia*, p. 911; Thomas D. Clark, "Agriculture" in *The Kentucky Encyclopedia*, p. 9. Clark, in *Kentucky's Historic Farms*, pp. 28.

<sup>58</sup> "Taylor was created from Green County in 1848," unidentified newspaper clipping in the vertical file Taylor County-History, Kentucky Historical Society, Frankfort, Kentucky.

<sup>59</sup> "Taylor County RECC Organized in 1938," *The News-Journal*, 1960. Clipping in the vertical file: Taylor County-History, Kentucky Historical Society, Frankfort; "Taylor County's Telephone System Began with Two Exchanges Between 1902-1908," Clipping in the vertical file: Taylor County-History, Kentucky Historical Society, Frankfort.

<sup>60</sup> Jarratt, in *Kentucky's Historic Farms*, pp. 54-56.

<sup>61</sup> Clark, in *Kentucky's Historic Farms*, pp. 27-28; 17<sup>th</sup> Census of the United States, 1950, Productions in Agriculture, Part 19, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives Microfilm.

<sup>62</sup> Interview with Buster Hall, January 20, 2004.

<sup>63</sup> Taylor County Deed Book 79, p. 136; Taylor Co. Deed Book 107, p. 531.

<sup>64</sup> Interview with Buster Hall, January 20, 2004.

<sup>65</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>66</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>67</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>68</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>69</sup> Taylor County Deed Book 237, p. 386; Taylor County Deed Book 226: pp. 426, 434.

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

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 26

Isaac Tate Farm

Taylor Co., KY

---

**Bibliography**

*1850 Census of Taylor County, Kentucky*, compiled by Ed Banningfield, Taylor County Historical Society, Campbellsville, Kentucky, 1983.

*1870 Census for Taylor County, Kentucky*, compiled and published by DeWayne Wilson, Campbellsville, Kentucky, no date.

7<sup>th</sup> Census of the United States, 1850, Productions in Agriculture, Department for Libraries and Archives Microfilm, Agricultural Census Roll 6.

8<sup>th</sup> Census of the United States, 1860, Schedule S: Productions in Agriculture, Department for Libraries and Archives Microfilm, Agricultural Census Roll 11.

9<sup>th</sup> Census of the United States, 1870, Schedule 3: Productions in Agriculture, Kentucky, Department for Libraries and Archives Microfilm, Agricultural Census Roll 17.

10<sup>th</sup> Census of the United States, 1880, Agriculture, Kentucky, Department for Libraries and Archives Microfilm, Agricultural Census Roll 32.

12<sup>th</sup> Census of the United States, 1900, Volume 5, Agriculture Part I, Kentucky, Department for Libraries and Archives Microfilm, Agricultural Census, 1900.

17<sup>th</sup> Census of the United States, 1950, Agriculture, Kentucky, Department for Libraries and Archives Microfilm, Agricultural Census, 1950.

Buchanan, Henry Allen. Interview conducted by Betty Jane Gorin, January 15, 2002.

Brochure, "Battle of Tebbs Bend at Green River," no publisher, no date.

Caldwell, Robert Tate. Letter to Mrs. George W. Hancock (Amanda Tate Hancock), September 25, 1970.

Clark, Thomas D. *Agrarian Kentucky*, The University Press of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky, 1977.

Clark, Thomas D. "Agriculture" in *The Kentucky Encyclopedia*, John E. Kleber, Editor in Chief, The University Press of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky, 1992.

Clark, Thomas D. "200 Years of Kentucky Agriculture," in *Kentucky's Historic Farms*, Turner Publishing Company, Paducah, Kentucky, c. 1994.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 27

Isaac Tate Farm

Taylor Co., KY

---

Cone, Carl B. "The University of Kentucky" in *The Kentucky Encyclopedia*, John E. Kleber, Editor in Chief, University Press of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky, 1992.

Collins, Lewis. *History of Kentucky*, Collins & Co., Covington, Kentucky, 1882.

Crocker, Helen Barter. *The Green River of Kentucky*, The University Press of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky, 1976.

Hall, Buster. Interview conducted by Joseph and Maria Campbell Brent, January 20, 2003.

Gorin, Betty Mitchell "Taylor County" in *The Kentucky Encyclopedia*, John E. Kleber, Editor in Chief, University Press of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky, 1992.

Gorin, Betty Jane, personal communication, March 29, 2004.

Green County, Kentucky Tax Assessment Records, 1805, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives Microfilm, Roll 008004.

Green County, Kentucky Tax Assessment Records, 1810, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives Microfilm, Roll 008004.

Green County, Kentucky Tax Assessment Records, 1815, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives Microfilm, Roll 008004.

Green County, Kentucky Tax Assessment Records, 1820, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives Microfilm, Roll 008004.

Green County, Kentucky Tax Assessment Records, 1821, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives Microfilm, Roll 008004.

Green County, Kentucky Tax Assessment Records, 1830, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives Microfilm, Roll 008004.

Green County, Kentucky Tax Assessment Records, 1835, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives Microfilm, Roll 008005.

Green County, Kentucky Tax Assessment Records, 1840, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives Microfilm, Roll 008005.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 28

Isaac Tate Farm

Taylor Co., KY

---

Green County, Kentucky Tax Assessment Records, 1841, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives Microfilm, Roll 008005.

Green County, Kentucky Tax Assessment Records, 1845, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives Microfilm, Roll 008005.

Green County Deed Book 4.

Green County Deed Book 21.

Jarratt, C. Ardell. "The Pennyroyal Region" in *Kentucky's Historic Farms*, Turner Publishing Company, Paducah, Kentucky, c.1994.

Klee, John. "Tobacco Cultivation," in *The Kentucky Encyclopedia*, John E. Kleber, Editor in Chief, University Press of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky, 1992.

Kennedy, Rachel and William Macintire, *Agricultural and Domestic Outbuildings in Central and Western Kentucky, 1800-1865*, Kentucky Heritage Council, Frankfort, Kentucky, 1999.

Lee, Lloyd G. *A Brief History of Kentucky And Its Counties*, Kentucke Imprints, Berea, Kentucky, 1981.

Lowe, Marshall and Gary Scott. *Green County Historical Factbook*, Published by the authors, Greensburg, Kentucky, 1970.

Macintire, Bill to Rebecca Nash, *Report of Site visit at The Homeplace*, October 22, 2003.

Macintire, Bill, personal communication, March 31, 2004.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses*, Knopf, New York, 1984.

McKinney, Stan, "Railroad reached end of line last year," *News-Journal*, Campbellsville, Kentucky, October 1, 1992.

Tapp, Hambleton and James C. Klotter, *Kentucky: Decades of Discord 1865-1900*, The Kentucky Historical Society, Frankfort, Kentucky, 1977.

Taylor County Deed Book 28.



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

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 29

Isaac Tate Farm

Taylor Co., KY

---

Taylor County Deed Book 79.

Taylor County Deed Book 107.

Taylor County Deed Book 226.

Taylor County Deed Book 237.

Taylor County Inventory and Sales Book 1

Taylor County, Kentucky Tax Assessment Records for 1849, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives Microfilm, Roll 008239.

Taylor County, Kentucky Tax Assessment Records for 1855, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives Microfilm, Roll 008239.

Taylor County, Kentucky Tax Assessment Records for 1860, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives, Frankfort, Kentucky, Microfilm Roll 008239.

Taylor County, Kentucky Tax Assessment Records for 1865, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives, Frankfort, Kentucky, Microfilm Roll 008239.

Taylor County, Kentucky Tax Assessment Records for 1866, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives, Frankfort, Kentucky, Microfilm Roll 008239.

Taylor County, Kentucky Tax Assessment Records for 1870, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives, Frankfort, Kentucky, Microfilm Roll 008240.

Taylor County, Kentucky Tax Assessment Records for 1880, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives, Frankfort, Kentucky, Microfilm Roll 008354.

Taylor County, Kentucky Tax Assessment Records for 1885, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives, Frankfort, Kentucky, Microfilm Roll 008599.

Taylor County, Kentucky Tax Assessment Records for 1892, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives, Frankfort, Kentucky, Microfilm Roll 172310.

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

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 30

Isaac Tate Farm

Taylor Co., KY

---

Taylor County Tax Assessment Book for 1901, 4<sup>th</sup> Precinct.

Taylor County Tax Assessment Book for 1939, District 4, Section 1.

Taylor County Will Book 1.

Taylor County Will Book 2.

“Taylor was created from Green County in 1848,” unidentified newspaper clipping in the vertical file Taylor County-History, Kentucky Historical Society, Frankfort, Kentucky.

“Taylor County RECC Organized in 1938” *The News-Journal*, 1960. Clipping in the vertical file: Taylor County-History, Kentucky Historical Society, Frankfort.

“Taylor Count’s Telephone System Began with Two Exchanges Between 1902-1908,” Clipping in the vertical file: Taylor County-History, Kentucky Historical Society, Frankfort.

Van Buren, Maurie, *House Styles at a Glance*, Longstreet Press, Atlanta, Georgia, 1991.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 31

Isaac Tate Farm

Taylor Co., KY

**UTMs, continued**

5. Z 16 E 645 400 N 4124040	Campbellsville
6. Z 16 E 645410 N 4123990	Campbellsville
7. Z 16 E 645460 N 4124000	Campbellsville
8. Z 16 E 645480 N 4123960	Campbellsville
9. Z 16 E 645380 N 4123660	Cane Valley
10. Z 16 E 645400 N 4123680	Cane Valley
11. Z 16 E 645360 N 4123520	Cane Valley
12. Z 16 E 645020 N 4123240	Cane Valley
13. Z 16 E 644460 N 4123500	Cane Valley
14. Z 16 E 644350 N 4123380	Cane Valley
15. Z 16 E 643920 N 4123630	Greensburg
16. Z 16 E 644120 N 4123880	Greensburg
17. Z 16 E 644460 N 4123920	Campbellsville
18. Z 16 E 644600 N 4124080	Campbellsville
19. Z 16 E 644640 N 4124240	Campbellsville
20. Z 16 E 644120 N 4124700	Campbellsville
21. Z 16 E 644060 N 4125140	Greensburg
22. Z 16 E 644140 N 4125180	Campbellsville
23. Z16 E 644040 N 4123590	Gresham

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary of the Isaac Tate Farm is irregular. It begins at a point on the west side of Hwy. 55 opposite the intersection of Lyle Road. From this point the boundary follows the west side of Hwy 55 approximately 5,150 feet.

The boundary then makes a 90-degree turn, proceeding west for going in a generally westerly direction for approximately 225 feet. At that point the boundary turns 90 degrees to the south and continues approximately 500 feet. It then makes a 90-degree turn to the east and proceeds east for approximately 100 feet. At that point the boundary turns 90 degrees south for approximately 200 feet. The boundary then turns 90 degrees east for approximately 200 feet where it intersects Hwy 55. The portion of the boundary described above follows the edge of the property line of a small cluster of three modern brick ranch houses that are excluded from the proposed National Register boundary.

After rejoining Hwy 55 the boundary follows the highway 200 feet south where it intersects the Tebbs Bend Road. The boundary follows the north side of Tebbs Bend Road in a generally southwesterly direction for approximately 1,000 feet. At this point the boundary turns southwest for approximately 600 feet, until it once

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 32

Isaac Tate Farm

Taylor Co., KY

---

again intersects the Tebbs Bend Road. From this point the boundary turns almost due west for approximately 400 feet before turning in a southwesterly direction for 1,000 feet where it intersects the Green River.

The boundary follows the Green River for approximately 4,800 feet, to a point where the Green River turns sharply to the south. At that point the boundary turns north for 200 feet then northeasterly for approximately 800 feet where it crosses a seasonal drainage. At this point the boundary generally follows the 700-foot contour line some 1,800 feet in a generally easterly direction. The boundary then turns northwest for about 600 feet, to a second seasonal drainage. From this point the boundary turns almost due north for approximately 600 feet. It then makes a 90-degree turn and runs northeast for about 2,000 feet, until it intersects Joe Kerr Road. The boundary follows the south side of Joe Kerr Road some 2,300 feet. At this point the boundary makes a 90-degree turn, proceeding south for about 200 feet. It then turns to the northeast, proceeding 600 feet, where it intersects Hwy 55 opposite Lyle Road and the starting point of the boundary description.

**Boundary Justification**

This boundary encompasses 392.38 acres. This acreage has been the historic farm property since some point during the Isaac Tate occupancy in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Additional Documentation      Page      33

Isaac Tate Farm

Taylor Co., KY

---

**Property owners**

The Homeplace on Green River, Inc.  
1143 S. Columbia Ave.  
Campbellsville, KY 42718-2456  
270-465-4511

The Nature Conservancy  
642 West Main Street  
Lexington, KY 40508  
859-259-9655

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

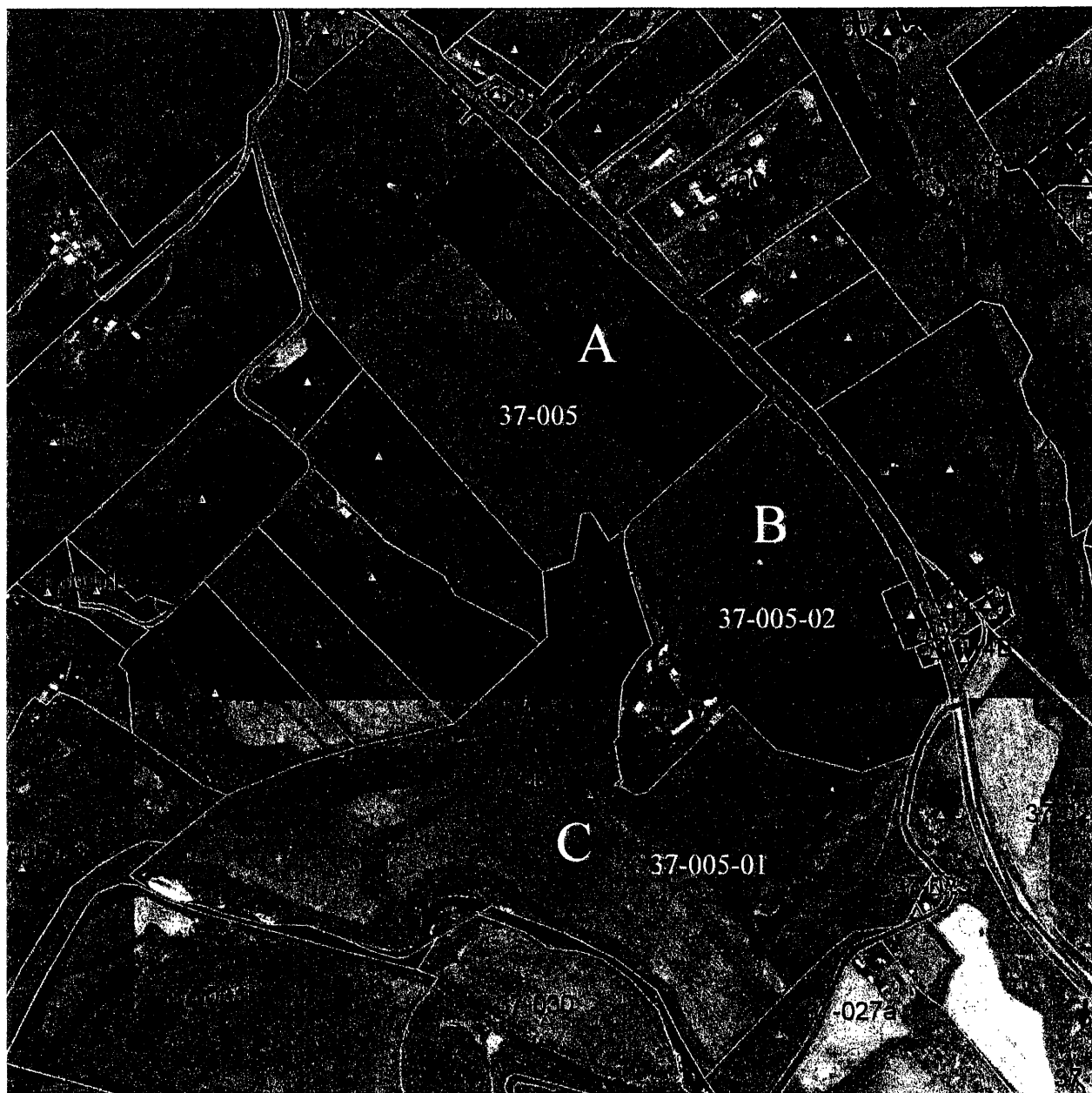
National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Additional Documentation Page 34

Isaac Tate Farm

Taylor Co., KY

Map 1: Taylor PVA County Map



The nominated area consists of parcels: 37-005 (A), 37-005-02 (B), and 37-005-01 (C).

North is to the top of the page. Scale: one inch equals 1,100 feet.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

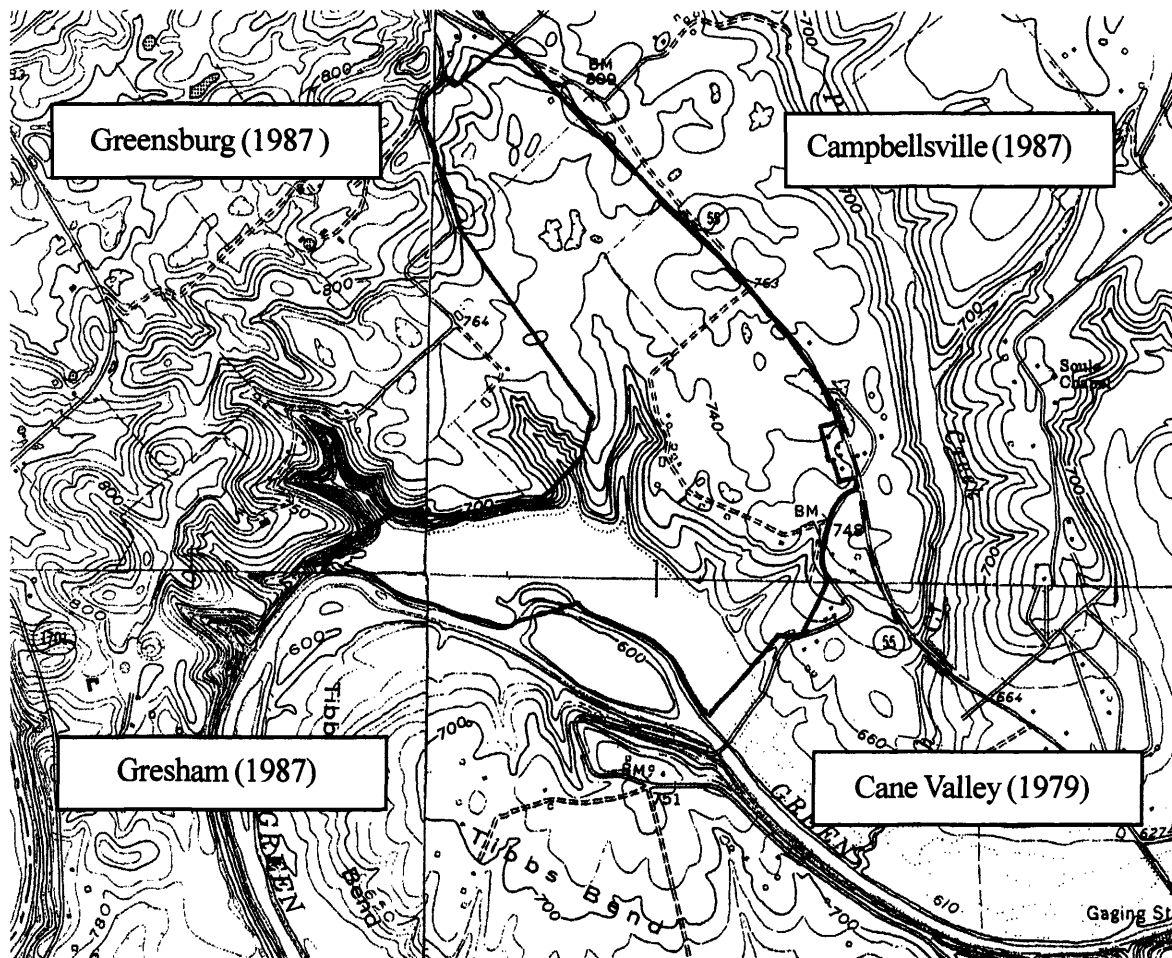
National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Additional Documentation Page 35

Isaac Tate Farm

Taylor Co., KY

Map 2: Isaac Tate Farm



Isaac Tate Farm  
Taylor County, Kentucky

Proposed National Register boundary shown in red.

Created from the Campbellville (1987), Cane Valley (1979), Gresham (1987), and Greensburg (1987) USGS Quad maps.

North is to the top of the page.

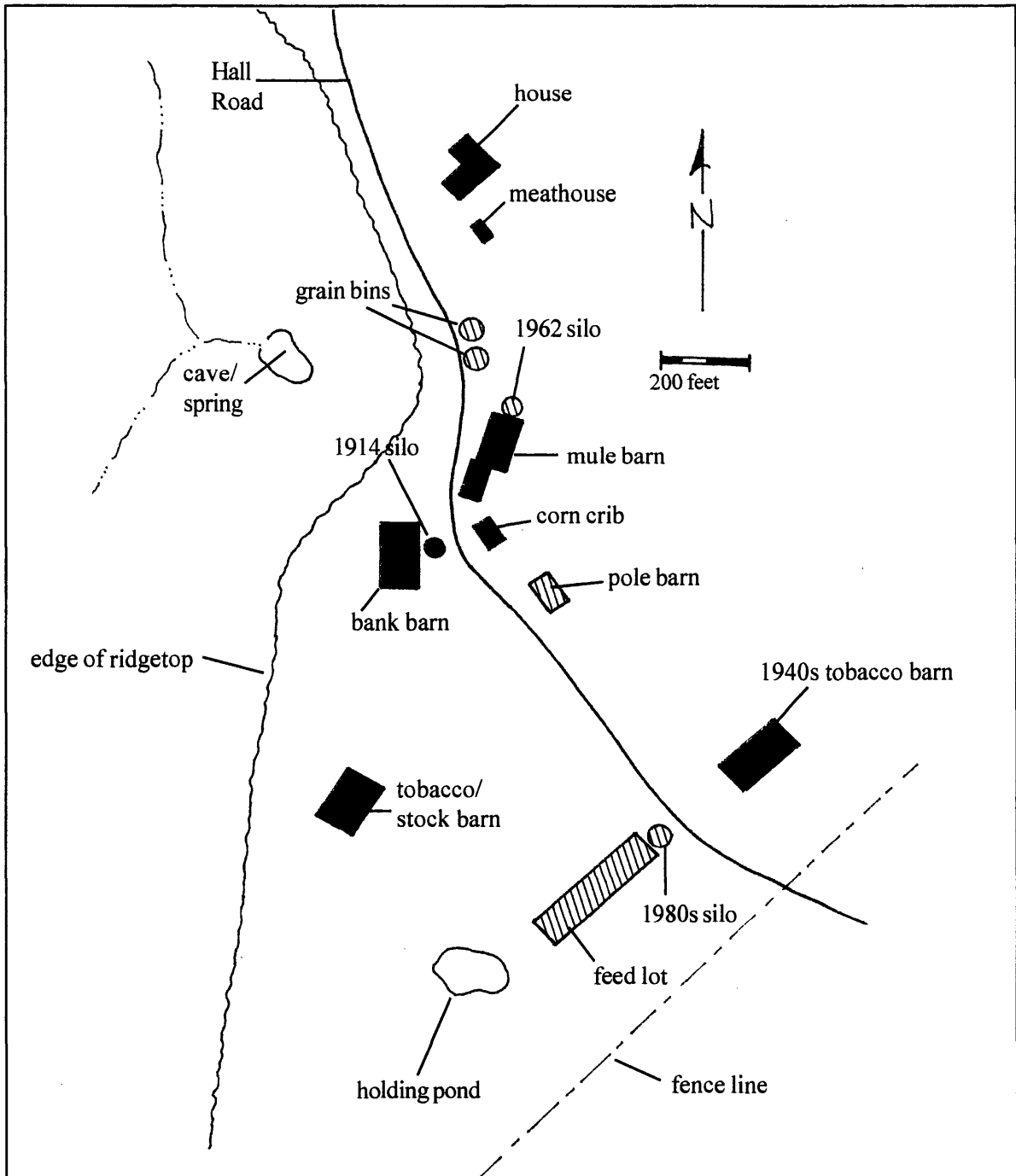
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Additional Documentation Page 36

Isaac Tate Farm

Taylor Co., KY



Isaac Tate Farm

black = contributing  
hatched = noncontributing



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

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

Page 37

Isaac Tate Farm

Taylor Co., KY

---

Photographer - Joseph E. Brent

February 9, 2004

Negatives on file at the Kentucky Heritage Council

1. Mule barn, 1962 silo - looking southeast
2. Tobacco barn - looking southeast
3. Overview of farmstead l-r bank barn and 1914 silo, corn crib, mule barn, 1962 silo, shop/storage- looking northwest
4. Overview showing bank barn and corn crib - looking north
5. House - looking south southwest
6. Overview - looking north northwest
7. Tobacco/stock barn -looking northwest
8. Bank barn and corn crib - looking west
9. Overview - showing irrigation tank in foreground - looking west