

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

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

For HCRS use only

received JUL 26 1982

date entered

1. Name

historic Bates Log House

and/or common Bates House

2. Location

street & number 5143 Spurr Road. NA not for publication

city, town Lexington N/A vicinity of congressional district 6th

state Kentucky code 021 county Fayette code 067

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. Franklin Groves - North Ridge Farm

street & number 4153 Spurr Road

city, town Lexington N/A vicinity of state Kentucky

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Fayette County Court House

street & number 251 West Main Street

city, town Lexington state Kentucky

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Kentucky Historic Resources Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date August 1979 federal state county local

depository for survey records Heritage Division - KY Department of the Arts

city, town Frankfort state Kentucky

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Bates Log House is located on the south side of the Spurr Road approximately eight miles northwest of downtown Lexington in Fayette County, Kentucky. Facing northeast, this log structure has six bays composed of a two-story center section, a one-story wing on the east side and on the opposite side, a story-and-a-half wing. (Photo 1) The wings, as well as the main block of the house, are constructed of hand hewn logs. It appears as if the two-storied center section comprises the earliest part of this building, with the one-story wing being added first and the story-and-a-half wing being added last. The wings have been added within a short period after the construction of the main block and is the only log building known of in central Kentucky that has two log wings. The three original massive stone chimneys remain intact, each having been extended with several courses of brick. A later, well-proportioned, one-story front porch was placed over the front entrance. The early Victorian trim indicated that the porch was added around the 1870s. A 20th century one-story porch is on the rear of the house and will be taken off when the proposed rehabilitation of this building begins (Photo 2). Although the window sashes are not original, several of the window frames are. As was the custom in central Kentucky, the house was covered with clapboard. The most recent clapboard has been removed, exposing the squared logs joined at the ends by the indented V-notch method (Photo 3). Except for two logs which show some dry rot, they are in remarkably good condition. Much of the original interior woodwork is still intact in spite of changes over the years. The relative unaltered state of this early log structure with its asymmetrical composition makes it a unique and pleasing reflection of the early building style and methods of pioneer Kentucky.

The house originally had a dog-trot between the one-story and two-story section. When this passageway was enclosed, a window was put there and the interior log wall of the one-story section was removed probably to provide for a larger living space. There appears to have been a slight fire in this one-story wing but nothing serious, although there are later floor boards in this room. The rest of the house still has original ash flooring. In this section, the cooking fireplace has been filled in with stone (Photo 4).

The lower floor of the main two-storied section has fine random width ash flooring. The stone fireplace is untampered with, although the original hearth is gone. The mantel is fine in size except that it is of the later Greek Revival period (Photo 5). The staircase to the second-story room was originally an L-shaped enclosed stair, but at a later date was straightened and although still enclosed, leads directly up to the left of the front entrance (Photos 6 and 7). The second-story room with its ash flooring appears to have been one large room. The mantel in this room is original and has charming primitive gouge work under the shelf (Photo 8).

The story-and-a-half wing was the last of the three sections to be built and surrounds the large brick chimney of the main block. This section has a front and rear entrance, ash flooring, an original stone fireplace and an early brick hearth. The mantel constructed of built-up moldings appears original (Photo 9). The baseboards are simple beaded planks. The staircase to the sleeping loft of this wing comes up from the lower floor of the main block (Photo 10 and 11). The loft room has two small gable-end windows on either side of the chimney stack.

The present owners are planning a complete rehabilitation of this log structure and by doing so, will bring back into service a rare Kentucky log structure.

¹The owner plans to take advantage of the benefits of the Economic Recovery Tax Act; therefore the rehabilitation will be completed according to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards.

8. Significance

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

Specific dates ca 1800 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Bates Log House, located in the northwestern section of Fayette County, is an outstanding example of a log structure especially in that the two wings of the house are also constructed of log. The relatively unaltered state of this building with its asymmetrical composition makes it unique. It was built in three sections, each at a different time, although all in a relatively short span of time. There were very few log structures of this size built in this area as owners would often abandon their log structures for a new brick building or make additions in other materials other than log. As was the custom, the house was covered in clapboard probably fairly early, which has kept the logs in a good state of repair. The size and the remaining original fabric of this building put it into a singular category within the architectural history of central Kentucky.

Although it is called the Bates Log House, research indicates that Ephraim Bates did not acquire land on the "town fork of the Elkhorn" until 1812. Bates purchased the land from Andrew Armstrong who bought it from James Lindsey in 1803. James Lindsey was one of the original settlers of Lexington and purchased one of the out lots devised by the town plan in 1781. The 1803 transaction between Armstrong and Lindsey does have the word "premises" stated in the deed which could indicate that a house was there by this date. Because brick was being used by the late 18th century in central Kentucky, this log building probably pre-dates 1812 and therefore was possibly built by the Armstrongs or more likely the Lindseys. Ephraim Bates and his family had the land for many years and the structure traditionally became known as "the Bates place" or "the Bates house."

The deed books show several changes in landowners although it is difficult to identify specific tracts from the early documents. The 1861 map shows the land belonging to William Pullen. It is known that this land and house came into the Piatt family in the 1890s. Mr. Tom Piatt was given this land in 1898 by his grandfather Augustus Payne and at twenty-one years of age started into the thoroughbred business. During his lifetime he bred on his land, five derby winners. He also bred Absab, one of the greats of American racing and he was the first president of the Thoroughbred Club of America. Mr. Piatt died in 1965 and the land was acquired in the 1970s by Franklin Groves, a very successful contractor from Minneapolis. Mr. Groves has put many improvements into this farm, now called North Ridge, and is planning to rehabilitate the Bates Log House for use as the farm guest house.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property one acre

Quadrangle name Lexington West

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 1 6 7 1 3 0 5 5 4 2 2 1 6 8 0
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification The boundary for the Bates Log House begins at a point (point 1) on the southwest side of Spurr Road and 1500 feet southeast of the intersection of Spurr and Yarnalton Roads and proceeds southwest along a line 350 feet to a point (2) then northwest along a line 125 feet to a point (3) then northeast along (see continuation sheet)

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

state n/a code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Richard S. DeCamp, Executive Director

organization Lexington-Fayette County Historic Commission date April 25, 1982

street & number 253 Market Street telephone 606-255-8312

city or town Lexington state Kentucky

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Mary Cowman Spurr

title State Historic Preservation Officer date July 12, 1982

For HCRS use only

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

Selma Byers Entered in the National Register date 8/26/82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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DATE ENTERED

Bates Log House
Fayette County, Kentucky

CONTINUATION SHEET 9

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 2

Fayette County Deed Books G, S, 28, 90, 114 and 122. Fayette County Courthouse.

Fayette County Maps of 1861, 1877, 1891 and 1904.

Lancaster, Clay. Ante Bellum Houses of the Bluegrass. Lexington, Kentucky, 1961. P. 7.

Lexington Herald. January 10, 1960.

Staples, C.S. The History of Pioneer Lexington. Lexington, Kentucky, 1939.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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Bates Log House

Fayette County, Kentucky

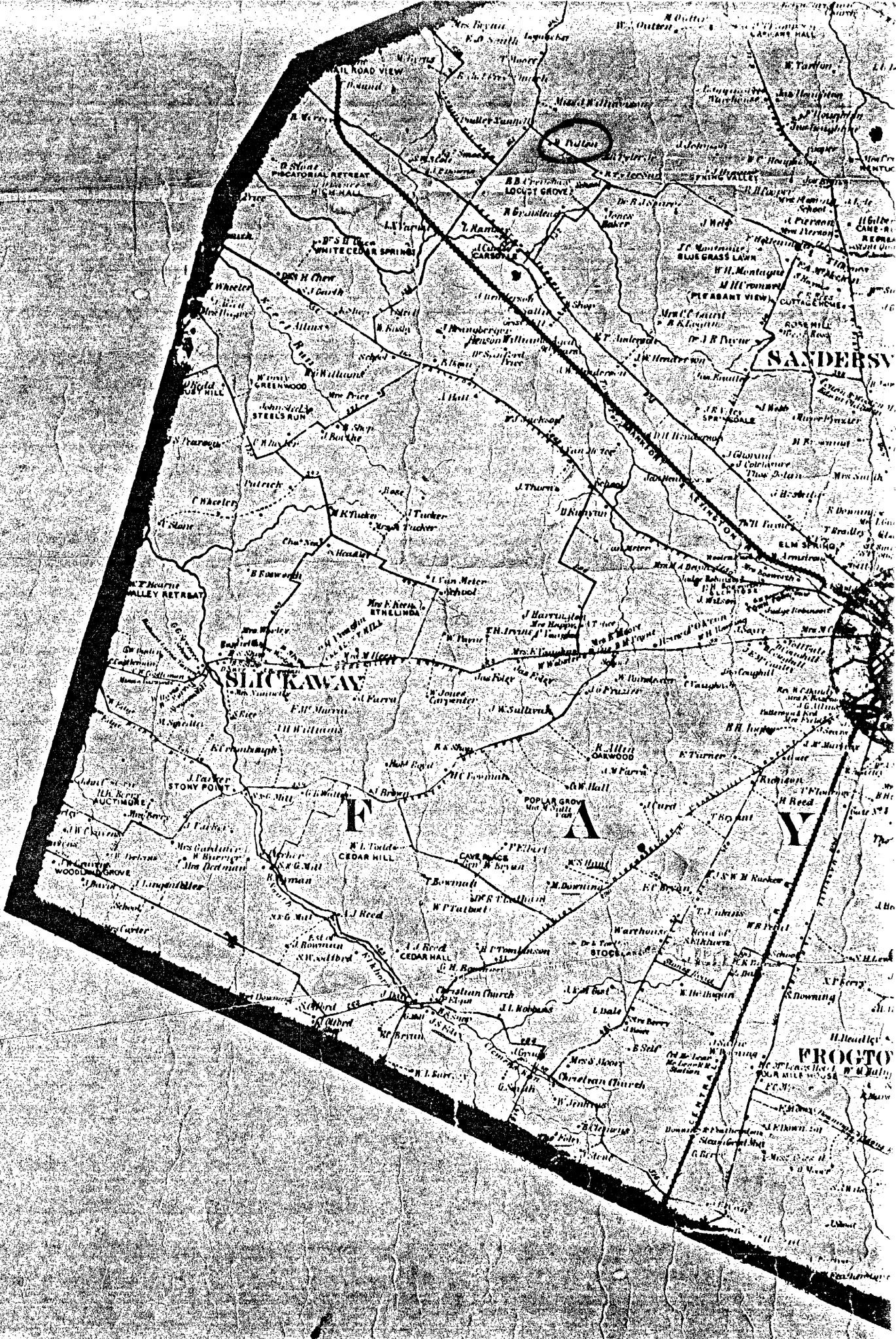
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10

PAGE 2

a line 350 feet to a point on the southwest side of the Spurr Road; thence along the southwest side of Spurr Road 125 feet to the point of origin, (See Map 3.)

No historic outbuildings remain. (Those outbuildings shown on Map 3 to the rear of the main house are contemporary and not judged significant to include within the nominated area.) The house sits on a large farm, surrounded by open fields. In that the house was constructed to visually relate to Spurr Road, the boundary is drawn to encompass the frontage to the main road, composing the scenic approach to the residence.



SANDERSVILLE

SLICKWATER

FROGTOWN

POPULAR GROVE

CEAR HILL

CEAR HALL

CHRISTIAN CHURCH

STOCK

CHRISTIAN CHURCH

CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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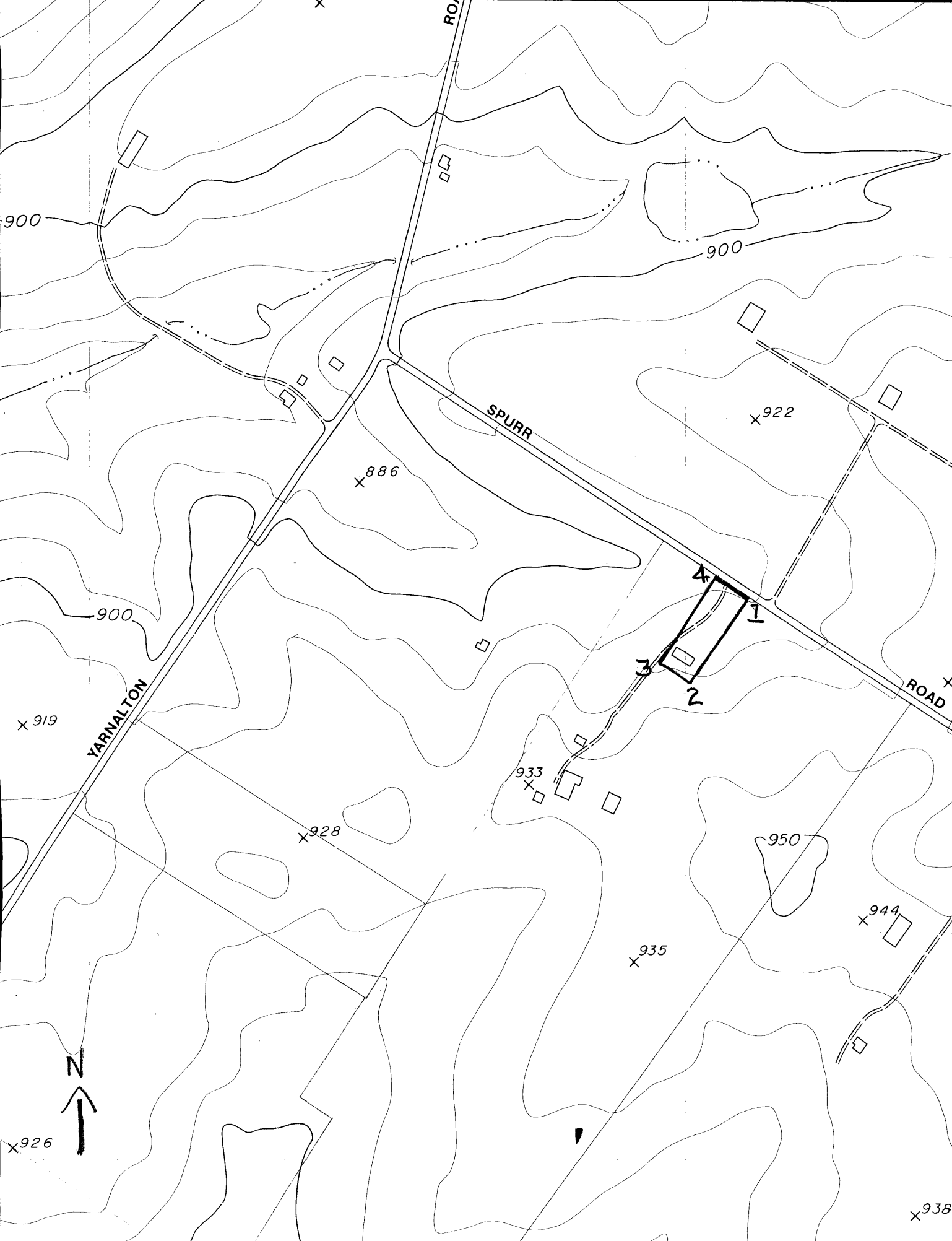
STOCK

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Bates Log House
Fayette County, Kentucky
Hewitt Map
1861
Scale: Unknown
Map 1 of 4

Bates Log House
Fayette County, Kentucky
D.G. Beers & Co.
1877
Scale: $1\frac{1}{4}" = 1$ mile
Map 2 of 4



Bates Log House
Fayette County, Kentucky
Urban County Planning Commission Map
Current (1982)
Scale: 1" = 400 ft.
Map 3 of 4

Nominated area shown in red.