

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



1. Name of Property

historic name Carson-Annis Ferry Farm

other names/site number Carson's Landing, (BT-1), Annis Mound and Village Site (15Bt2, 15 BT20, 15BT21)

2. Location

street & number 1086 Annis Ferry Rd. not for publication N/A
city or town Morgantown vicinity X state Kentucky code KY county Butler code
031 zip code 42261

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination
request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places
and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not
meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally
 statewide X locally.

David Pollack
Signature of certifying official David Pollack, Acting SHPO

2/12/07
Date

Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional
comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

☒ entered in the National Register Daniel J. Vixen
See continuation sheet.
4/10/07
☐ determined eligible for the
National Register
See continuation sheet.
☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register
☐ removed from the National Register

 other (explain):

for Signature of Keeper Date
of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

☒ private
☐ publiclocal
☐ publicState
☐ publicFederal

Category of Property

☐ building(s)
☒ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing Noncontributing

<u> 3 </u>	<u> 1 </u> buildings
<u> 3 </u>	<u> 1 </u> sites
<u> 8 </u>	<u> 6 </u> structures
<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u> objects
<u> 14 </u>	<u> 8 </u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1 prehistoric site, One contributing building, and 3 non-contributing buildings. The non-contributing buildings have been evaluated as contributing buildings for this nomination, and have been counted in the table above

Name of related multiple property listing N/A **6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions

Cat: Agricultural/Subsistence Sub: agricultural fields, pasture, agricultural outbuildings
 Cat: Domestic Sub: single dwelling

Current Functions

Cat: Agricultural/Subsistence Sub: agricultural fields, pasture, agricultural outbuildings
 Cat: Domestic Sub: single dwelling

7. DescriptionArchitectural Classification: Late 19th and Early 20th American Movements: Bungalow/Craftsman

Materials

foundation Concrete
 roof Metal/Steel
 walls Wood/Weatherboard
 other

Narrative Description (See continuation sheets.)

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NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

This current nomination proposes to place two previously listed properties onto the National Register that reside within a 301-acre historic farm. In 1985, a 9-acre prehistoric archeological site, Annis Mound and Village Site, was listed; in 1998, 2.2 acres of Carson's Landing (BU—1) was listed. Carson's Landing was listed for its contributions to the development and growth of commerce and transportation along the Green River in Butler County between 1853 and 1924; Annis Mound and Village Site was listed for its contributions to our understanding of prehistoric archeology. The current nomination proposes to discuss the 301-acre area as a 20th-century farm, significant during a span from 1904-1956.

The Carson's Landing nomination includes a resource count of one contributing building and three noncontributing buildings. The verbal boundary description reads:

"Nominated property includes the contributing Carson-Annis residence, three noncontributing outbuildings and 2.2 acres. This portion of the 301-acre Annis Ferry Farm has historically been associated with the steamboat landing and ferry and maintains its historic integrity. The remainder (298.8 acres) of the Annis Ferry Farm has been excluded because the original buildings associated with the ferry and steamboat landing, including the warehouse, livestock scales, store, and post office, no longer exist. The remaining acreage and existing structures do not exhibit the associations with the steamboat landing and ferry." ¹

This current nomination will discuss this property's description and evaluation according to its farm identity; the contribution of all features will be assessed within this local agricultural context. The development of the Carson-Annis Ferry Farm contributes to our understanding of local agriculture, which supplanted river trade and commerce as the main source of income for Big Bend residents in Butler County during the early-20th century until at least 1956. The presence of the prehistoric archeological resources will be minimized because they do not contribute to the farm's identity, as well as to protect the site's precise location from public awareness.

The Carson-Annis Ferry Farm sits 7 miles northwest of Morgantown, Kentucky, and approximately a 1/4-mile northeast from the crossroads community of Logansport, at the intersection of Annis Ferry Road and State Route 403, or Logansport Road. The 301-acre farm is located in the Big Bend Region of Butler County along the banks of the Green River and is a significant rural historic landscape. The Big Bend is a geographically distinct area of Butler County. It is a 9000-acre Revolutionary War land grant tract surrounded by fifty miles of the Green River on three sides, which forms a horseshoe bend appearing much like a peninsula. Locally, the Big Bend was originally called "Anderson's Bend," and is contained in two different sections. The Lower Bend (or Big Bottoms) is characterized by the river bottom lowlands, which are flat and fertile fields. The Upper Bend is the spine-like higher elevations of the region, which are hilly and generally forested.

¹ Jan Johnston. "Carson's Landing" National Register Nomination. P. 7-1

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Ownership of Farm Acreage

Originally part of a Revolutionary Land Grant to Richard C. Anderson in 1786, the 9000-acre Big Bend began to be divided in 1810 when Butler County was established. Anderson's original grant was divided into two tracts—3100 acres to Abraham Maury and 6900 acres to the Charles Wilkins Company. The land that the Carson-Annis Farm is located on is a part of the Wilkins tract.²

In 1841, the Wilkins Company sold 20 tracts of land. Tract number eleven comprising 500 acres was sold to James Madison Rogers and his wife, Seanna Borah Rogers. This property represented the initial acreage of the Carson-Annis tract. The Rogers family established their homestead atop a hill overlooking the river bottomlands. The house was a two-room weather boarded dwelling that was surrounded by an orchard. The ruins of the house were demolished approximately thirty years ago.³

In 1845, the Rogers sold the 500-acre tract to William Carson. Carson conveyed 100 acres back to Rogers in 1845.⁴ In 1852, Thomas C. Carson inherited the 400-acre tract from his father William Carson. Between 1853 and 1854, Thomas Carson constructed a two-story frame Greek Revival styled I-house. Located on the eastern-most portion of the farmstead, the house is two hundred feet from the banks of the Green River. The house was a part of the Carson's Landing site, which also included a post office, warehouse, livestock scales, and store. As is the case with these historic features of Carson's Landing, a log building on the site that served as the kitchen is no longer extant. A barn associated with the farmstead was demolished after being moved by the 1937 flood.⁵

Thomas Carson left the farm in 1880 to move to Morgantown. His son, John M. Carson, stayed on the property with his wife Lulu Guffy Carson. The family constructed an ell addition and two-story portico porch to the original I-house in 1881. John and Lulu left the farmstead in 1885 to move to Morgantown. The property was rented to Alonzo Forsythe and his family until 1894. John M. Carson sold a 301-acre tract to John Quincy Davenport in 1894. There are no extant buildings remaining from the Davenport tenure of ownership. John Quincy Davenport only held on to the property for ten years.⁶

In 1904, William Thomas Annis purchased the property from John Quincy Davenport for \$9500. The Annis family resided in the Carson-Annis house. The river bottomlands began to be cultivated with the first crop in 1905. When W.T. Annis died in 1919, the undivided property was willed to his five children from his second marriage to Alice Annis. Alice Annis continued to live in the Carson-Annis house until her death. The two eldest Annis sons, Wendell and Harry (see site map 2), were active in the farm management and constructed dwellings on the farm property in the 1920s. Through the twentieth century, the Annis family kept the farm undivided and heirs sold their shares of the property to Wendell Annis and later to his daughter Doris. Ownership of the farm continues to remain in Annis Family hands by Doris (Annis) and Carroll Tichenor, the third generation to maintain the Annis Family property since 1904.

² Raymond DeWeese. "The Early History and Settlement of the 9000 Acre Anderson Survey, 1785-1848. P. 5-9

³ Doris Tichenor. "A Chronology of Land Ownership of Annis Ferry Farm." P. 1

⁴ It is thought that Joseph Rogers, a son of James and Seanna lived at the site of Carson's Landing.

⁵ Doris Tichenor. "A Chronology of Land Ownership of Annis Ferry Farm." P. 1

⁶ Ibid.

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Character of the Farm Acreage

The 301 acres proposed for listing encompass the historic Carson-Annis Ferry Farm. The farm's layout and land usage today is very much the same as that developed by William Thomas Annis just over one hundred years ago. The original Carson-Annis house, which has associations with both the steamboat landing and ferry site, as well as being the principal residence on the farmstead until the 1920s, remains intact. This original dwelling is located on the eastern edge of the farm near the banks of the Green River. The 1922 Harry Annis bungalow is also located on this portion of the farm south of the Carson-Annis house. Agricultural outbuildings associated with both houses are situated in the respective domestic yards. The other cluster of buildings on the farm is located near the relatively elevated southwestern portion of the property. The current dwelling was constructed on the site of the 1920 Wendell Annis House in 2000. A small pond was also added when the new house was constructed. A spur road connects the house and agricultural outbuildings with the Annis Ferry Road.

Surrounding the two domestic farm clusters are the two principal fields that lie in the fertile river bottomlands, the Mound Field and the River Field. The Annis Ferry Road, constructed by the WPA in 1939 for WPA archaeologists excavating the Annis Mound and Village site, bisects the fields. A hayfield is located on the hills above the bottomlands and once served as pastureland. This hayfield was also the site of the original Rogers homestead. At the western periphery of the farm are 45 woodland acres, timbered over the years but not since 1962. A tree line surrounds the property and defines the boundaries of the farm. The original barbed-wire fencing that divided the pastureland from the fields was dismantled when livestock ceased to be raised on the farm in the 1980s.

Much of the historic rural character of the Carson-Annis Ferry Farm is intact and protected from incompatible intrusions. The traditional perimeter of woodland buffers the farm from Highway 403 and the Logansport crossroads community. The Green River Parkway (also known as the William Natcher Parkway) is located near the farm's eastern boundary; however, the treeline on this boundary shields the farm from the road. The Newton Farm to the north and the Martin Farm to the south border the Carson-Annis Ferry Farm, helping to maintain the agricultural character of the surrounding area. The Carson-Annis Ferry Farm has successfully maintained its character as an early-twentieth century farm in the Big Bend.

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Domestic and Agricultural Buildings and Structures

Contributing Features

1. **Carson-Annis House** (1853-54). Contributing Building, already listed. The first primary residence located on the farm. Situated facing the Green River, the Carson-Annis house is a two-story frame-weather-boarded I-house with Greek Revival styling. It has rear-ell addition that was added in the 1880s. The house, listed as being constructed between 1853-1854, is thoroughly described in the original National Register nomination. Since the original nomination in 1998, the house has been meticulously maintained. The original floor plan, moldings, and fixtures have been carefully preserved or restored.
2. **Garden House (Former Smokehouse)** (ca. 1938-1939). Contributing structure. Listed as non-contributing in the original nomination since it was not related to the associated context. The garden house is located on the northwest side of the Carson-Annis House. Constructed circa 1938-1939, this outbuilding served as a smokehouse for the Annis family. This structure was constructed following the 1937 flood, which destroyed the original log smokehouse (formerly the summer kitchen) on the site. It is a one-story gable-roof building clad in vertical boards with a tin roof. Rafter tails punctuate the gable side elevations. In 1994, the smokehouse was repaired and two windows installed.
3. **Well house** (circa 1930s) Contributing structure. Listed as non-contributing in the original nomination since it was not related to the associated context. The well house is located on the north side of the Carson-Annis House. Though the actual date of construction is unknown, it is thought to date from some time after the 1937 flood. It is a one-story, gable-roof building clad in vertical boards with a tin roof. Rafter tails punctuate the gable side elevations.
4. **Harry Annis House** (ca. 1922). Contributing Building. Located to the south of the original Carson-Annis House, this bungalow is on the site of the former Carson's Landing store. This one-and-a-half-story frame bungalow has a hipped roof and is clad in weatherboard. A single dormer is located on each of the north and south elevations. The house rests on a concrete block foundation. It is sheathed in a standing seam metal roof that was replaced in the 1990s. The principal façade is oriented toward the Green River and is situated approximately 200 feet from the riverbanks. A screened porch with a shed roof extends across the façade. A single interior chimneystack punctuates the ridgeline of the roof and is located on the northern side of the house. A side entrance with covered porch is located on the north elevation and is oriented toward the Annis Ferry Road. A single-story frame addition with a shed roof is located on the east elevation of the house.

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5. **Chicken House** (circa 1920s). Contributing Structure. Located to the south of the Harry Annis house is this shed-roof frame chicken house clad with vertical boards. The roof is sheathed with tin and the exposed rafter tails extend from the eaves. There is a single standard door on the south elevation. The chicken house has a concrete block foundation.

6. **Garden house (former smoke house)** (ca. 1940s). Contributing Structure. Located to the south of the Harry Annis house, this is a single-story gable roof frame building with vertical board siding. It has a tin roof. A pent roof extends across the facade above the off-center door opening. Formerly a smoke house, it is now used for garden tool storage.

7. **Livestock barn.** (ca. 1910s) Contributing Building. Located northwest of the non-historic Tichenor residence in the Wendell Annis domestic yard, this frame, gable-roof barn has two shed-roof additions on the side elevations. The main portion of the barn contains horse stalls and hay racks for feeding. The east side addition has been converted into a woodworking shop.

8. **Tool shed (former hog house)** (ca. 1920s). Contributing Structure. Located northwest of the non-historic Tichenor residence in the Wendell Annis domestic yard, this is a one-story, gable roof, frame structure with vertical board siding. It has a tin roof and exposed rafter tails on the eave-oriented elevations. The entrance is located on the east elevation of the former hog house. It is currently used as a tool shed.

9. **Corncrib** (ca. 1920s). Contributing Structure. Located west of the non-historic Tichenor residence in the Wendell Annis domestic yard, this is a one-story frame shed-roof structure with a tin roof. It is sheathed in vertical boards and has a single plank door on the west elevation. This building served as a corncrib historically. Currently it is not in use.

Non-contributing Features

10. **Car House** (ca. 1950) Moved. Noncontributing Structure. Located on the Wendell Annis domestic yard west of the current house and sits behind the 1967 garage. This garage is a single bay, one-story, gable front frame structure clad in vertical boards and tin with a tin roof. Originally located on the site of the 1967 garage, it was relocated to its current site in 1967.

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11. **Well house (former smokehouse)** (ca. 1920s) Moved. Noncontributing Structure. Located on the Wendell Annis domestic yard west of the current house. It is a one-story gable roof frame structure on a non-continuous concrete foundation. Clad in weatherboard salvaged from the Carson's Landing store. The structure's roof extends outward to create an overhang and is clad in tin. This smokehouse was moved to its present location within the last six years to accommodate the new house. It was previously located behind the Wendell Annis house.

12. **Machinery Shed** (ca. 1980s) Noncontributing Structure. Located on the Wendell Annis domestic yard west of the current house, this one-story gable-roof steel building on a poured concrete foundation is a modern structure. Two large, sliding doors are located on the eave-oriented elevation of the building along with standard size door. The building houses farm machinery and vehicles. It is outside the period of significance.

13. **Storage Building** (ca. 1980s) Noncontributing Structure. Located on the Wendell Annis domestic yard west of the current house, this one-story gable-roof steel building on a poured concrete foundation is a modern structure. An overhead door and standard entrance door are located on the front gable elevation. Currently used for the owners' storage of personal belongings. It is outside the period of significance.

14. **Garage** (1967). Noncontributing Structure. Located on the former site of the Car House, this is a single-bay one-story gable-front frame structure on a poured concrete foundation. It is clad with corrugated steel and horizontal boards. The structure has a tin roof with rafter tails. An overhead door encloses the single bay of the structure. It is outside the period of significance.

15. **Carroll and Doris (Annis) Tichenor House** (2000). Non-contributing Building. This house sits on the former site of the 1920 Wendell Annis bungalow. It is a one-story, irregularly massed, frame building resting on a concrete foundation. The standing seam metal roof and vertical plank siding sensitively harmonize with the historic materials found on other farm buildings. Designed to take advantage of views and landscape, this contemporary dwelling represents the third generation of Annis family occupation on the property. While it is outside the period of significance, the house is not intrusive due to the way its scale, massing, and materials reference the other farm buildings.

16. **Garage** (ca. Late 1960s). Noncontributing Structure. Listed as non-contributing in the original nomination, this structure is on the east side of the Carson-Annis House. It is a one-story, steel frame building on a concrete foundation with a gable roof. A single overhead door encloses the structure. The original nomination determined that the building did not detract from the integrity of the site because it was behind the Carson-Annis house. It is outside the period of significance.

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Significant Farm Sites and Structures

Contributing Features

17. **The Mound Field** (1905). Contributing Site. Agricultural field located in the river bottomlands on the southeastern side of the Annis Ferry Road. The crops cultivated rotate between corn and soybeans. Production on the field was initiated when W.T. Annis took ownership of the property.

18. **The River Field** (1905). Contributing Site. Agricultural field located in the river bottomlands on the northeastern side of the Annis Ferry Road. The crops cultivated rotate between corn and soybeans. Production on the field was initiated when W.T. Annis took ownership of the property.

19. **The Hayfield** (1905). Contributing Site. Located on "the hills" above the bottomland fields in the central part of the property. Originally used as pastureland for livestock. Hay production started in the 1980s, once livestock ceased to be raised on the farm.

20. **Annis Ferry Road** (1939). Contributing Structure. The WPA constructed this gravel road for the WPA archeological work at the Annis Mound and Village Site. The road starts at highway 403 and runs west to east through the farm to the former Carson's Landing site. The road serves as the main artery on the farm and provides access to the fields and domestic areas.

Non-contributing Feature

21. **Pond** (2000). Non-contributing Site. This small pond serves as a decorative water feature that was designed to accompany the Tichenor House. It is located east of the noncontributing Tichenor house in a depression between the Wendell Annis homestead site and the Rogers homestead site. It has a minor visual impact on the farm because it is a small-scale element that blends in the landscape.

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Integrity Evaluation

The Carson-Annis Ferry Farm possesses various landscape elements and features that support the identity of a rural historic landscape. Integrity considerations must be evaluated to assess the property's ability to demonstrate its historic significance through the tangible, physical features on the landscape. In order to evaluate the integrity of the Carson-Annis Ferry Farm, the property must be compared with other similar farms in the Big Bend to determine a baseline of integrity.

A reconnaissance survey of farms in the Big Bend of Butler County revealed that all farmsteads including this one have suffered some loss of integrity of materials, design, and workmanship. In some instances, the original farmhouse had been replaced with a newer dwelling on the farmstead. In other cases, the original domestic house may have survived, but outbuildings were lost or were in ruins. New types of agricultural outbuildings have been introduced on some Big Bend farms such as grain bins and metal buildings, which demonstrate the success of late-twentieth century farming in the Big Bend. All farms in the Big Bend have undergone some alteration through the course of time. These changes are to be expected in a working agricultural landscape. An assessment of the integrity of any farm in this area must consider the total cumulative effect of such changes when balanced with other land use and pattern changes. A farm in the Big Bend of Butler County will be said to have historic integrity when the overall rural historic landscape reflects the property's period of significance and historic context. Overall, medium to high levels of integrity for design, materials, setting, location, feeling and association of the farm must be intact to convey the character and landscape of an early twentieth century working farm in the Big Bend of Butler County.

The Carson-Annis Ferry Farm, when compared with other local farms, retains a medium level of integrity in design. The farm's physical arrangement and patterns of land usage today is very much the same as it was when the Annis family took ownership of the property more than one hundred years ago: clustered domestic buildings and agricultural outbuildings, surrounding fields, tree stands along the periphery, and the ever present Green River. The main farm road, Annis Ferry Road, defines the principal circulation network for the farm, which reinforces the overall organization of the property. There has been some loss of buildings, principally the Wendell Annis House. The Harry Annis House, however, represents an example of an early-twentieth-century farmhouse. Some of the domestic outbuildings have been moved, while newer buildings added due to modern-day needs and uses. This was found to be a common occurrence on area farms, and the Carson-Annis Farm had a relatively low level of alteration.

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Farms in the Big Bend constructed buildings and structures using timber, which was abundant in the area. Many of these subsistence farms contained weather-boarded houses and vertical board outbuildings, with tin roofs. The historic resources at the Carson-Annis Ferry Farm generally retain the characteristic materials of Big Bend farm from the early-twentieth century. There is a medium level for integrity of materials at the Carson-Annis Ferry Farm. The Carson-Annis House and the Harry Annis both retain much of their historic fabric. Even the outbuildings associated with both domestic yards remain relatively unaltered. The Wendell Annis domestic cluster has had newer buildings introduced. Primarily, the two metal sheds relate to a late-twentieth-century agricultural aesthetic.

The setting of the Carson-Annis Ferry Farm illustrates how farming in the Big Bend responded to the natural environment created by the Green River. The farm retains a high level of integrity of setting. The farm's surrounding trees that line the borders of the property maintain the property's viewshed and shield it from the Green River Parkway. Little modern development has encroached upon the boundaries of the farm. Neighboring farms remain in agricultural use, plus treelines provide a buffer to maintain the historic setting. The historic patterns of land use remain intact with the domestic clusters, fields, circulation networks, which have been basically unaltered. The Green River continues to border approximately one-third of the property, and has retained its natural form. There has been no development along the banks of the river to detract from the historic setting or disturb the Annis Mound site. The orientation of the fields and farm buildings reveal that the setting helped to organize the farm on the landscape.

The overall integrity of location is maintained at a high level. The principal features of the farm including the homestead sites, fields, and road remain in their historic locations. Though some agricultural buildings have been moved, the overall impression of historic building and land use relationships on the property has been retained. Locations of the property's resources demonstrate how Big Bend farms operated in the twentieth-century. The Carson-Annis Ferry Farm is interesting because the location of the steamboat landing and the Carson-Annis House also reveal the significance of the river during the nineteenth-century. The Harry Annis House speaks to a reluctance to leave the riverbanks. The site of the Wendell Annis house that retains many of the historic outbuildings illustrates the move to using higher ground for dwellings and using the river bottomlands for cultivation.

Finally, the integrity of feeling and association are at high level on the Carson-Annis Ferry Farm. The historic boundaries of the farm are evident by the tree lines that follow the edges of the farm. Continued cultivation and occupation of the land connect with the historic operations on the farm. The domestic clusters and surrounding agricultural fields are clearly delineated on the landscape. Because the patterns of use and setting have been retained, the farm conveys the ambiance of an early-twentieth-century farm in the Big Bend. Taken together, the existing historic resources with the cultivated and natural environment create a distinct rural historic landscape that is unique to the Big Bend of Butler County. The Carson-Annis Ferry Farm serves as a testimonial to the importance of agriculture to the region at a time when the economy drastically shifted away from river commerce and trade.

Applicable National Register Criteria

Name of repository: _____

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Carson-Annis Ferry Farm (BU-1) meets National Register Criterion A and is significant within the historic context "Butler County, Kentucky, Agriculture, 1850-1956," which is the framework of evaluation developed for this nomination. The agricultural significance of the Carson-Annis Ferry Farm occurs from 1904-1956. A portion of this farm known as Carson's Landing (BU—1) was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1998, highlighting the site's significance as a ferry landing in Butler County within the areas of commerce and transportation from 1853-1924. The area listed as Carson's Landing is 2.2 acres, and includes the historic Carson-Annis House that defined the steamboat landing site, and three non-contributing outbuildings nearby. The dwelling and outbuildings of the Carson's Landing contribute to the 301-acre Carson-Annis Ferry Farm. This nomination seeks listing for the property associated with Carson's Landing, along with all historic resources within the larger farm's context, insofar as they contribute to our understanding of agriculture's important role in the Big Bend region of Butler County during the twentieth century. The Carson-Annis Farm serves as a significant Big Bend rural historic landscape, demonstrating how residents of the region adapted to an agricultural economy as the river economy disappeared.

The early decades of the twentieth century were a time of transition for the Big Bend region, as the dominance of river-oriented commerce in the area began to wane and disappeared by the 1930s. The agricultural economy in the Big Bend, especially during the 1920s to 1956 (and beyond), became increasingly important as the main source of income for the region's inhabitants during the twentieth-century. The Period of Significance is 1904 –1956, which reflects the time that the agricultural pursuits on the farm begin to supplant Carson's Landing as a principal function on the property. The overlap in the period of significance for Carson's Landing and the Carson-Annis Ferry Farm is important because it demonstrates the transition in economies for the Big Bend. The significant date is 1904, when William Thomas Annis purchased the property. The end date for the period of significance relates to the close of the 50-year period.

The farm lies in the Big Bend area of Butler County, which is surrounded by the Green River. For over 100 years, the farm has been owned by, and currently is occupied by, members of the Annis family. The farm remains remarkably intact. Succeeding generations have cared for the farmstead that Thomas W. Annis began to develop in 1904, maintaining carefully and making additions and alterations where natural damage, deterioration, and newer farming methods have necessitated. The farm was among the Big Bend's successful agricultural operations and retains a great deal of integrity today. This rural historic landscape embodies the characteristics of farm life in Butler County during an important transition when the economy of the region was changing from prosperous river trade and commerce to an agricultural dependence.

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A specific context for the Big Bend's agricultural history had not been developed prior to this study. It was necessary to understand the impact of farming in Butler County, in order to evaluate the Carson-Annis Ferry Farm within that framework. In order to develop this historic context, sources discussing the overall role that agriculture played in the county. Local history books for Butler County, John Kleber's *Kentucky Encyclopedia*, and Thomas Clark's "200 Years of Kentucky Agriculture" in *Kentucky's Historic Farms* served to offer a general picture of agriculture and development in Butler County. This area of the Big Bend also has been the subject of a Cultural Historic Resources report, "Cultural Historic Survey for the Proposed Wilson-Aberdeen Transmission Line in Ohio and Butler Counties, Kentucky" conducted in September 2005 by Cultural Resource Analysts, Inc. The "Carson's Landing" National Register Nomination from 1998 also provided information for context development.

Data related to actual farms and agricultural products were necessary to examine because they help place the farm in a comparative framework of similar farms. U.S. Census data from 1850 to 1950 gave the best insight into how agriculture emerged as a key source of income for Butler County residents. This process allowed for the development farming products and patterns for Butler County, Kentucky. These records were all accessed online through the Historical Census Browser provided by the University of Virginia's Geospatial and Statistical Data Center. Additional U.S. Census information for the owners of the Carson-Annis Ferry Farm was acquired from the online site Ancestry.com, which provides digital images of relevant census pages.

To place the Carson-Annis Ferry Farm within this general agricultural context, historic documents, farm records, and family histories were sought. Butler County tax records from 1905 through 1919 provide information about the value of personal property, which illustrates the development of the farmstead through this period. However, Butler County tax records between 1920 through 1948 were not found. Tax bills for 1949 through 1956 were also consulted. Farm records provided insight into specific agricultural activities on the farm. Additional information about farming practices in the twentieth century comes from Annis family histories and members of the Annis family.

"Butler County, Kentucky, Agriculture, 1850-1956"

These dates are inclusive of the initial establishment of the nominated property by Thomas C. Carson, beginning in 1852 with his purchase of a 400-acre plot in the Big Bend (or what was known as Anderson's Bend originally) of Butler County. This period starts after the settlement period in Butler County and encompasses the importance of river commerce in the Big Bend until the beginning of the twentieth century when its dominance begins to fade. The sale of the property to Thomas Annis in 1904 corresponds with a transitional period in the first decades of the twentieth century from river trade to an agricultural economy. This transition to farming signifies the general adjustment local area residents had to make to maintain their economic livelihoods. Once riverboat service ended in 1924, Big Bend residents had

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to rely on farming to support their families. The fertile bottomlands of the Big Bend were ideally suited to raising livestock and crops. The onset of the Depression slowed farm development to subsistence level agriculture. By the time that World War II had ended, however, the Big Bend region began to produce cash crops of corn and soybeans. This type of agricultural cultivation has shaped the landscape of the Big Bend throughout the twentieth century and into the twenty-first century, as well.

Butler County's Early Euro-American Settlement

Butler County is located in the Western Coalfield subregion of the Pennyryle Cultural Landscape of Kentucky. The county was established in 1810, with Morgantown serving as the county seat since 1813. The Big Bend region of Butler County encompasses 9000 acres and is surrounded by 50 miles of the Green River.¹ The Big Bend has been associated with Butler County's economic success since the settlement period. The Green River served as a major water transportation route beginning in 1828. Jan Johnston's 1998 National Register nomination for Carson's Landing provides an excellent history and importance of the Green River to the area's development and prosperity. "During the period of significance, the nominated property was one of many steamboat landings and ferry sites along the Green River in Butler County and Kentucky. Its development paralleled the improvements of the Green River as a navigable waterway and the development and growth of commerce and transportation along the Green River in Butler County."²

Concurrent with the intensive use of the Green River as a transportation route, the Big Bend region was also developing as a fertile agricultural region. This area of Butler County is largely defined by the Green River's alluvial plain that forms a "horse-shoe" bend in the northwestern portion of the county. As a result, the river has created fertile agricultural land that has been cultivated for centuries.³ Previous to Anglo settlement, Native Americans intensively occupied this region. The Native American presence in this geographic region has been recorded through numerous historic mounds and artifacts resulting in the 1986 National Register listings of the Annis Mound and Village sites located on the Carson-Annis Ferry Farm. Archeological evidence suggests that these Mississippian period Native Americans engaged in river bottom agriculture, with corn, beans, and squash being the dominant crops.⁴

Sometimes called "Anderson's Bend," the area was occupied by white settlers with Revolutionary War land grants in the late-eighteenth century.⁵ Ownership of land in the Big Bend began to change in 1810, as the original land grants were sold. The Charles Wilkins Company took a 6900-acre tract in the "Upper

¹ William H. Marquardt and Patty Jo Wattson. "The History of Butler County, Morgantown, Logansport, and the Big Bend." P. 3.

² Jan Johnston. "Carson's Landing National Register Nomination." P. 8-6.

³ Butler County Historical and Genealogical Society. *Butler County, Kentucky: A History of Butler County and Its People*. P. 29.

⁴ Doris Tichenor. "A Brief Summary of 'First Efforts' to Summarize the Ownership History of the Tract of Land in the Big Bend Known as Annis Ferry Farm." P. 1

⁵ Raymond DeWeese. "The Early History and Settlement of the 9000 Acre Anderson Survey, 1785-1848. P.5

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Bend", which was held until approximately 1840.⁶ By 1841, the land was divided into 20 tracts. The Borah Family purchased many of these tracts from the Charles Wilkins Company. A 500-acre tract purchased by James Madison Rogers, whose wife was Seanna Borah Rogers, would later become the Carson-Annis Ferry Farm.⁷ The largest tract was the 3000 acres located in the "Lower Bend," or the very northern end of the "U-shaped" portion of the Big Bend. This tract was known as the "Borah Plantation."⁸ The agricultural patterns for the Big Bend became established during this period.

The Big Bend region was especially suited for the cultivation of corn, hay, oats, tobacco and later, soybeans. The river bottomlands of the Big Bend had superior soil, which made it prime farmland. Even the uplands in the Big Bend had soil suitable for pastureland.⁹ The climate and geography of the Green River Valley in general provided fertile farmland. Helen Bartter Crocker's *Green River of Kentucky* stresses the agricultural viability of the area, "The area's climate was conducive to good farming, with a growing season of 210 days, a mean temperature of fifty-seven degrees, and more than forty inches of rainfall yearly. The only immediate deterrent to farming was the heavy forest covering most of the area."¹⁰ Since this time, the land in this 9000-acre region has retained its agricultural use and character.¹¹

General Agricultural Patterns, 1850-1950 (See table on page 8-8)

By 1850, the county population had reached 5,755. Slave labor in Butler County, at the time of this census, accounted for 681 slaves. By comparison, neighboring Ohio County had 1132 slaves in 1850. There were 629 farms in Butler County with 26,272 acres of improved farmland. When the total acreage of farmland including unimproved land, farms accounted for a total of 49 % of the total land area of Butler County. The average value of a farm in Butler County at the time was only \$535.00, while the average size was 221 acres. Only figures for livestock were available from the 1850 U.S. Agricultural Census, whose total value was \$131,508. At this time, much of the county's land was still heavily forested.¹²

In 1860, the number of Butler County farms had reached 746, but an additional 15,938 acres of land were improved, a 60% increase over 1850 levels. The slave population had increased by less than 100, for a total of 770 enslaved persons. The total land in farms had risen to 65% of the county when the 29,217 acres of unimproved land was added to improved farmland. Again, only livestock values were available for 1860, which was recorded at \$326,500. Comparing this amount to 1850 values reveals a 60% increase in

⁶ Ibid. p. 14, 18.

⁷ Doris Tichenor. "A Brief Summary of 'First Efforts' to Summarize the Ownership History of the Tract of Land in the Big Bend Known as Annis Ferry Farm." P. 2

⁸ Raymond DeWeese. "The Early History and Settlement of the 9000 Acre Anderson Survey, 1785-1848. p. 19-23.

⁹ Butler County Historical and Genealogical Society. *Butler County, Kentucky: A History of Butler County and Its People*. P. 20.

¹⁰ Helen Bartter Crocker. *The Green River of Kentucky*. P. 10.

¹¹ Raymond DeWeese. "The Early History and Settlement of the 9000 Acre Anderson Survey, 1785-1848. p. 19-23.

¹² 1850 U.S. Agricultural Census "Butler County, Kentucky."

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the value of livestock. Given the Green River's role in commerce for Butler County, it appears that livestock were being raised for shipment to other markets. The average value of a Butler County farm had increased markedly to a figure of \$1438 and the average farm size was 247 acres.¹³

The population of Butler County had reached 9,404 citizens by 1870. At the same time, the number of farms had almost doubled in ten years, to 1244. Livestock value in 1870 reached \$410,120, which represented a 20% increase from 1860. The only other agricultural products listed in the census were market garden produce, but only was valued at \$1172 for the total county. The value of Butler County farms had declined to an average of \$813. There are no data on the average size of the farms, but the decline in value suggests that farms were shrinking in size.¹⁴

By 1880, Butler County had 81% of its land in agricultural use. This represented a 16% increase in farmland from 1860. The total number of farms has reached 1648. Although there is no record of the average value of a Butler County farm, the average size had decreased to 140 acres. The value of livestock was listed at \$387,682, which represented a decline from 1870 values.¹⁵ A gazetteer promoting the Green River listed figures for Butler County agricultural products in 1889 including: 653,622 bushels of corn; 33,810 bushels of wheat; 103,166 bushels of oats; 263,632 bushels of tobacco; and 2,906 tons of hay. The publication touted the bottomlands of the Big Bend as a very productive agricultural area, especially in corn, tobacco, and wheat.¹⁶

With a population of 13,956 in 1890, Butler County was continuing to increase its number of farms. Though the amount of land in agricultural use remained steady, at 81%, the county had 1907 farms. The average size of these farms decreased to 121 acres, which suggests that the earliest large farms were being divided into smaller farms. The value of livestock in the county increased to \$470,120.¹⁷

In 1900, the county had 2223 farms with a population of 15,986. The average size of the farms further declined to 104 acres. Livestock values continued to increase to \$549,439. The actual amount of land in agricultural use remained steady at 82%. For the first time, the amount of improved farmland (121,952 acres) exceeded the amount of unimproved farmland (109,155 acres) in Butler County. This change in how the land was being used points to an increasing dependence on agriculture as a source of income.¹⁸

¹³ 1860 U.S. Agricultural Census "Butler County, Kentucky."

¹⁴ 1870 U.S. Agricultural Census "Butler County, Kentucky."

¹⁵ 1880 U.S. Agricultural Census "Butler County, Kentucky."

¹⁶ W.P. Greene. *The Green River Country From Bowling Green to Evansville, Its Traffic, Its Resources, Its Towns and People.* "Butler County."

¹⁷ 1890 U.S. Agricultural Census "Butler County, Kentucky."

¹⁸ 1900 U.S. Agricultural Census "Butler County, Kentucky."

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Butler County's population essentially remained steady in 1910, with a total of 15,805 citizens. The number of farms, however, increased to 2511. The average size of a farm was 110 acres. For the first time since 1870, market garden figures were listed in the census. Butler County's value for this type of produce was \$99,357. The total value for hay was enumerated at \$78,884. There were no data for livestock values.¹⁹

Though no statistical data was found for corn crop production in 1910, one source suggested that the area of the Big Bend was becoming a major corn-producing region. The book, *Green River Gravels*, details an account about how corn stalks from the Big Bend were used in early twentieth-century shipbuilding — as insulation. Within this passage is a description of the region, "There is in Butler County a section known as the Big Bend. Green River makes an almost complete loop as it meanders on its way through Butler into Muhlenberg, with in this loop is found some of the most fertile farmland in the area. Acres and acres of corn is grown in what is known as the Big Bend."²⁰ This points to a shift in the agricultural identity of the Big Bend, as commerce along the Green River begins to decline in the early-twentieth century.

The county's population declined slightly, to 15,197, in 1920. The number of farms reached 2540, which represented a 25% increase from 1890. The average size of a farm was 103 acres, however, the average value increased to \$2626. All values for agricultural products increased as well: livestock reached \$1,408,137; market garden produce reached \$160,735; and hay reached \$373,861. By 1920, the amount of land in agricultural use had risen to 87% of the entire county. Although these were the waning days of Green River commerce, Butler County was able to transition into an agriculturally-based economy.²¹

The 1930 U.S. Census recorded a precipitous drop in the Butler County population, which was recorded at 12,620 citizens. The loss 17% loss of population in ten years suggests that the decline of Green River steamboat traffic caused many to leave the area. At the same time the number of farms dropped to 2150, which represented a 15% drop from the peak in 1920. Full owners operated 1185 of these farms. The average size of farms increased to 122 acres while the average value was \$1567 for a farmstead.²²

Figures for hay production in 1930 dropped from the 1920 high to \$154,741. This number remained higher than the 1910 value. Market garden values also dropped from 1920 figures, to \$86,552. Taking into account that the Depression was felt in rural areas first, these declines are not surprising. A total of 1945 farms in Butler County were growing corn by 1930, which represented 90% of all farmsteads. This indicates that corn had become the dominant crop in the area.²³

¹⁹ 1910 U.S. Agricultural Census "Butler County, Kentucky."

²⁰ Ellis Ford Hartford. *Green River Gravels*. P. 8

²¹ 1920 U.S. Agricultural Census "Butler County, Kentucky."

²² 1930 U.S. Agricultural Census "Butler County, Kentucky."

²³ 1930 U.S. Agricultural Census "Butler County, Kentucky."

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By 1940, Butler County's population had rebounded to 14,371 citizens. The number of farms declined slightly to 2091. The total amount of the county's land in agricultural use had dropped from the 1920 peak to 79% at the end of the Depression era. The average size of a Butler County farm declined to 110 acres and the average value fell to \$1317. Only 80 farms, or just 40% of the farms in the county, were larger than 260 to 379 acres. Full owners operating farms was recorded at 1225, which represented 60% of total farmsteads.²⁴

Corn continued to be grown on 1779 of the total farms in the county, which was roughly 85% of all farmsteads. In contrast, only 342 farms grew tobacco, or just 16% of all farmsteads in the county. Hay remained profitable crop, reaching \$216,424 in 1940, which represented a 30% increase from ten years earlier. The appearance of soybeans in the Census indicates that 594 farms were growing the crop in 1940.

The end of World War II brought new farming methods to local agriculture, which impacted farm production. Tractors and their larger heavier implements began to supplant mules on the farm.²⁵ This increase in mechanization allowed farmers to tend more acreage, resulting in a general shift off the family farm that was seen across the country. In Butler County the number of farms shrank 25%, from a peak of 2540 in 1920, to 1910 in 1950. Still, 78.5% of the county remained in agricultural use. During this time, the average size of farms increased from 103 acres in 1920 to 113 acres in 1950. Only 80 farms in the county were 260-379 acres. The average value of a Butler County farm decreased to \$1131. Owners operated 1299 farms, or 68% of all farmsteads. Corn was grown on 1521 farms representing 80% of total farmsteads. The number of farms growing soybeans had dropped to 383. There was no enumeration for tobacco.²⁶

²⁴ 1940 U.S. Agricultural Census "Butler County, Kentucky."

²⁵ Sharon Poat. "Jesse Whitesell Farm National Register Nomination." P. 8-10.

²⁶ 1950 U. S. Agricultural Census Records "Butler County."

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Butler County Farms 1850 –1900

Year	# of Farms	Average size of Farms	Improved Acres	Unimproved Acres	% of Land in Agricultural Use
1850	629	221	26,272	112,986	49%
1860	746	247	42,210	142,203	65%
1870	1244	No data	55,947	No data	Undetermined
1880	1648	140	88,765	142,249	81%
1890	1907	121	99,291	130,871	81%
1900	2223	104	121,952	109,155	82%
1910	2511	110	No data	No data	No data
1920	2540	103	132,770	113,246	87%
1930	2150	122	228,517*	No data	81%
1940	No data	110	No data	No data	79%**
1950	1910	113	No data	No data	78.5%**

*1930 U.S Agricultural Census only provided total acres of land in farms.

**1940 and 1950 U.S Agricultural Census only had total percentage of land in agricultural use.

Summary of Agricultural in Butler County, 1850-1950

Though agriculture had been a part of Butler County since the settlement period, farming had the most impact after 1900 when the Green River commerce was fading. The early decades of the twentieth century were the most prosperous for Butler County in terms of agriculture. Butler County residents in the Big Bend were able to adapt to the dramatic shift in their local economy by turning to farming as a primary source of income. This development had a lasting effect on the Big Bend landscape as farms oriented agricultural production toward the fertile river bottomlands. The Carson-Annis farm demonstrates this transition in economy as agriculture eclipsed river trade and commerce in the Big Bend.

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Evaluation of Carson-Annis Ferry Farm

Thomas Carson established Carson's Landing after he inherited a 400-acre property in the Big Bend from his father in 1852. The farm was above the average size of Butler County farmsteads in 1850. It is on this property that he constructed the circa-1853 Carson-Annis residence, a two-story frame house on the eastern portion of the farmstead and 200 feet from the Green River.²⁷ Though the property is historically significant for its association with Green River steamboat navigation, the farmstead itself also possesses historic significance for its association with agriculture in the Big Bend. The property was referred to as a "home farm" in William Carson's will of September 21, 1852. This suggests that the tract of land had been some type of agricultural use by the 1850s.²⁸

Little physical evidence of farming activities from the Carson Period of ownership remains. Carson did clear the bottomlands of the virgin timber, setting the pattern for the farm's fields. Deed records indicate that Carson owned a sawmill near the riverbanks for timbering.²⁹ Thomas Carson focused on developing the landing site with its post office and store. Carson, however, was listed as a farmer in census records for 1850, 1860, and 1870. Records also show that he owned slaves.³⁰ In the 1870 Census, Carson's son John was listed as a farm laborer. Two former slaves, Wesley and Alexander Forsythe, were also listed as farm laborers in the Carson household.³¹ By the 1880 Census, Carson had moved to Morgantown and was listed as a deputy sheriff.³² He also founded a bank in Morgantown and became an active civic leader.³³

Once Thomas Carson moved to Morgantown, his son, John Carson constructed an ell addition to the main house and lived on the farm with his wife Lulu, until about 1885. John Carson eventually moved to Morgantown, and the property was rented to Alonzo Forsythe. At this time, a barn described as "the finest in the county" was erected on the farm.³⁴

²⁷ Jan Johnston. "Carson's Landing National Register Nomination." P. 7-1, 8-12.

²⁸ Butler County Will Book "A", p.328 -329

²⁹ Tichenor, Doris and Carroll. "Observations on Early Farming on Annis Ferry Farm."P.2

³⁰ Doris Tichenor. "Big Bend History: Indians, Pioneers, and Late Comers." P. 4

³¹ 1870 U.S. Population Census. Morgantown, Butler, Kentucky Enumeration District 105

³² 1880 U.S. Population Census. Morgantown, Butler, Kentucky Enumeration District 105

³³ Tichenor, Doris and Carroll. "Observations on Early Farming on Annis Ferry Farm."P. 3.

³⁴ Doris Tichenor. "A Brief Summary of 'First Efforts' to Summarize the Ownership History of the Tract of Land in the Big Bend Presently Known as Annis Ferry Farm." P. 4

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The 301-acre Carson tract, including Carson's Landing, was sold to John Quincy Davenport in 1894.³⁵ Evidence suggests that Davenport was more interested in the Landing operations than cultivating the land. The Davenport family records detail his successful general store at the Landing. The papers do mention his "large farm" but do not indicate what type of agricultural activities took place on the farmstead. The farm was nearly three times the size of an average Butler County farm at the time. Documents do reveal that cattle, hogs, and chickens were on the Davenport farm. It is probable that Davenport grazed livestock that would later be sent to market in Evansville by steamboat. No farm buildings dating from the Davenport-era of ownership are known to have existed on the property.³⁶

William Thomas Annis purchased the farm property and Carson's Landing from Davenport in 1904 for \$9500.00. With his second wife, Alice, and their four children, along with his three children from his first marriage, Annis moved into the existing house at Carson's Landing. W.T. Annis closed the store and post office at the Landing but kept the ferry and steamboat landing in operation. He actively traded in livestock, which proved to be a prosperous enterprise for Annis.³⁷

Though W.T. Annis was listed as a farmer in the 1910 U.S. Census of Population, he left primary farming operations to his two eldest sons, Wendell and Harry. Both were listed in the same census as farm laborers on the "home farm" along with their younger brother Charlie T. Annis.³⁸ It is with this period of ownership that the Carson-Annis farm became an agricultural landscape. Family members indicate that the young Annis boys plowed the bottomland fields in 1905 removing huge stumps left from logging of the property's virgin timber.³⁹ This suggests that the fields had not been cultivated in the past. Corn was the principal crop grown at this time. The crops were used to feed the livestock on the farm.⁴⁰

The 301-acre farm was well above the average size for Butler County in the early decades of the twentieth century. Tax records also reveal that the farm was valued at a higher rate than other farms. The tax assessment for 1905 appraises the farm at a value of \$11,471. Certainly the value of the landing site and associated buildings contributed to that value. The tax bill for 1912 shows the value of the property at \$6205, which was after W.T. Annis closed the store and post office. The value of the farm remained about the same until 1916, when it was assessed at \$8076. In 1919, the year that W.T. Annis died, the farm was valued at \$13,894.⁴¹ A portion of William Thomas Annis' obituary from February 1919 suggests that his farm had been quite prosperous during his tenure:

³⁵ Doris Tichenor. "Big Bend History: Indians, Pioneers, and Late Comers." P. 5

³⁶ Earle Glen Davenport. "The Descendants of Charles Richard Davenport." P. 28 – 29.

³⁷ Doris Tichenor. "A Brief Summary of 'First Efforts' to Summarize the Ownership History of the Tract of Land in the Big Bend Presently Known as Annis Ferry Farm." P. 5

³⁸ 1910 U.S. Population Census, Schedule 1, First Magisterial District, Morgantown, Butler County Kentucky, Sheet 3.

³⁹ Doris Tichenor. "A Brief Summary of 'First Efforts' to Summarize the Ownership History of the Tract of Land in the Big Bend Presently Known as Annis Ferry Farm." P. 5

⁴⁰ Tichenor, Doris and Carroll. "Observations on Early Farming on Annis Ferry Farm." P.3

⁴¹ Annis Ferry Farm Records, "Deeds and Tax Receipts."

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Tom Annis was a man of retiring disposition, kind, generous and intensely energetic, amassing a near fortune as the fruits of his labor...He was director in the John M. Carson Bank, and one of the most extensive farmers in this section of the State.⁴²

W.T. Annis and his sons transformed the property from a primarily Green River landing site into a prosperous working farm in just 15 years.

After Thomas Annis's death in 1919, Alice Annis assumed ownership of the 301-acre farm, while her two eldest sons, Wendell and Harry Annis, became the principal managers of the farm. The 1920 Census indicates both men's occupations as Farmer, and that they worked on the "Home Farm."⁴³ Both men were starting families and quickly built their own residences on the farm property. W.T. Annis constructed a frame Bungalow in 1920 on a hilltop considerably back from the Green River banks. His brother also constructed a Bungalow in 1922, but located it along the riverbanks near the original Carson-Annis house.

Much of the farm's current character was shaped during the 1920s and 1930s. The introduction of tiling in the river bottomlands during the 1920s allowed for efficient drainage in order to grow crops. This tiling process opened more land for cultivation in the Big Bend. The process involved burying 4" clay tiles in the ground to form channels for water drainage. If fields were not tiled in the bottomlands, they could be too wet to yield a crop. The Mound Field was the first to be tiled in 1925, for the cost of the tile being \$528, help \$140, unloading \$50, and tools \$10. The River Field was also tiled a short time later. Outbuildings for farm operations were also constructed at all three home sites by the 1930s, including corncribs, hog houses, smokehouses, chicken coops, and livestock barns. Barbed wire fencing separated the fields from the livestock ⁴⁴

The Depression years came early to this region, hitting hard those farms operated as subsistence farms. Alternate sources of income were sought by Big Bend families to maintain farms. A few women would take jobs off the farm to provide a steady salary. Typically, the women earned household income from the chickens, eggs, and garden produce, which were sold to local grocery stores. Livestock and market garden produce were used to supplement farm income. On the Carson-Annis Ferry Farm, Wendell's wife Amy took a job as a teacher to provide for the family. Corn and soybeans were raised to feed the livestock. There were approximately 30 Hereford cattle in the farm's herd during this time. Hogs and chickens were also raised on the farm for meat and cash income. The family received extra income from boarders, who were working on the WPA archeological excavation of the Annis Mound site in the farm. Although this period was difficult, the Carson-Annis Ferry Farm remained intact and in the hands of the Annis family⁴⁵.

⁴² Doris Tichenor, "Carson's Landing Historical Material." Under the heading of W.T. Annis.

⁴³ 1920 U.S. Population Census, Schedule 1, First Magisterial District, Morgantown, Butler County Kentucky, Sheet 3.

⁴⁴ Doris Tichenor, "Tax Bills." P. 1

⁴⁵ Tichenor, Doris and Carroll. "Observations on Early Farming on Annis Ferry Farm." P.4-5

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In the Post-World War II era, the Carson-Annis Ferry farm continued to remain a commercial farm. Ford N Tractors were acquired in 1950 to mechanize farming operations. The main crops continued to be corn and soybeans, which fed the livestock on the farm.⁴⁶ The farm continued to be well above the average size and value of Butler County Farms. The farm's original 301-acres remained in Annis family ownership, which was almost three times the size of area farms. Tax bills from 1949-1955 assessed the property's value at \$11,000, while the average for the county remained at about one-tenth of this value, \$1131.⁴⁷ Today the farm remains in Annis Family ownership and continues to be farmed with corn and soybeans being cultivated as cash crops.

Conclusion

The necessity for alternative economic means was driven by the fading river commerce in the Big Bend of Butler County. The introduction of roads and rail became favored and more efficient methods for travel and shipping goods. For Big Bend residents, this change in transportation meant that the Green River Steamboat era was ending. As area residents increasingly depended on farming for primary income, an agricultural character and landscape emerged as a defining signature in the Big Bend.

The historic Carson-Annis Farm was an important component of the agricultural production in Butler County's Big Bend area through the mid-twentieth century. The crops grown, livestock raised, and methods used were typical among the area's farms. The extant historic buildings, structures, and features, including crop patterns, tree lines, and topography, provide physical evidence of these typical agricultural patterns and practices. Thus, the Carson-Annis Ferry Farm is a significant rural historic landscape because it informs us how agriculture supported Big Bend residents and shaped the character of the region in the twentieth century. This shift to an agricultural economy from one based on river transportation provided an important economic role in the Big Bend, which is still evident today.

⁴⁶ Ibid. P-6

⁴⁷ Doris Tichenor, "Tax Bills." P. 1

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 2

Carson-Annis Ferry Farm
name of property
Butler County Kentucky
County and State

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10. Geographical DataAcreage of Property 301 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

Flener and Cromwell Quads

X See continuation sheet 10-1.

Verbal Boundary Description: See continuation sheet 10-1.

Boundary Justification: See continuation sheet 10-1.

11. Form Prepared Byname/title Cynthia Johnsonorganization N/A date December 1, 2006street & number 51 Mentelle Park #4 telephone (859) 338-8284city or town Lexington state KY zip code 40502**12. Property Owner**name Doris and Carroll Tichenorstreet & number 1086 Annis Ferry Farm. telephone (502) 728-2561city or town Morgantown state KY zip code 42261

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 10 Page 1

Carson-Annis Ferry Farm
name of property
Butler County Kentucky
County and State

UTM Coordinates All points in Zone 16

<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>	<u>Quad Name</u>
522441	4126828	Cromwell
521914	4122793	Flener
521830	4127561	Flener
520673	412846	Flener
521603	412603	Flener

Verbal Boundary Description

The Carson-Annis Ferry Farm lies in the Big Bend of Butler County, KY. The entire farm is proposed for listing on the National Register and includes a total of approximately 301 acres.

The farm is designated as Parcel 4, Parcel 4.01, and Parcel 4.02 on the Butler County Property Valuation Assessor Map 43. The area proposed for National Register listing includes all of the listed parcels. Please see enclosed map.

Boundary Justification

The property proposed for inclusion on the National Register by the current nomination includes the 301 family-owned acres, which was assembled initially by Thomas Carson in 1852 and then maintained by the Annis Family from 1904 to 2006. This nominated rural historic landscape retains buildings, sites, boundary demarcations, land use patterns, and archaeological sites, which as an assemblage characterize a twentieth-century farm in the Big Bend region.

United States Department of the Interior
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Misc. Page 1

Carson-Annis Ferry Farm
name of property
Butler County Kentucky
County and State

Same information for all photographs

Property: Carson-Annis Ferry Farm

Date of photographs: November, 2006

Photographer: Doris Tichenor.

Location of Negatives: Doris Tichenor, 1086 Annis Ferry Road, Logansport, KY

Photo Specific information

Photo # Content

1. Views from intersection of 403 and Annis-Ferry Road showing surrounding buildings (church, school, stores, cemetery) and surrounding landscape
2. View looking up drive to new house and surrounding outbuildings
3. View of farm from the new house
4. Views looking at outbuildings from new house showing relationships of outbuildings
5. View from new house to barn
6. View from barn looking at new house and outbuildings
7. View from high point near Rogers' house site (hayfield? area) looking at fields and Carson-Annis cluster
8. View from hayfield looking at new house and outbuildings showing location on elevated part of farm (if possible)
9. View of 45 acre wooded area along farm boundary
10. View from Annis-Ferry Road looking toward new house
11. View looking down WPA (Annis-Ferry) road at fields and landing site.
12. View of Carson-Annis house and uncle's bungalow house area showing relationship of two (if possible)
13. View of Carson-Annis house from old road bed showing elevation
14. Views of outbuildings and Carson-Annis house relationships
15. View of Bungalow and its outbuildings
16. Views of Green River boundary of farm
17. Views of mounds
18. Views of Mound Field looking toward boundaries
19. Views of River Field looking toward farm boundaries
20. Carson-Annis House
21. Carson-Annis Garden House (former smokehouse)
22. Carson-Annis Well House
23. Carson-Annis 1960s Garage
24. Harry Annis House
25. Harry Annis Chicken House
26. Harry Annis Garden House (former smokehouse)
27. Doris and Carroll Ticehnor House (former site of Wendell Annis House)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

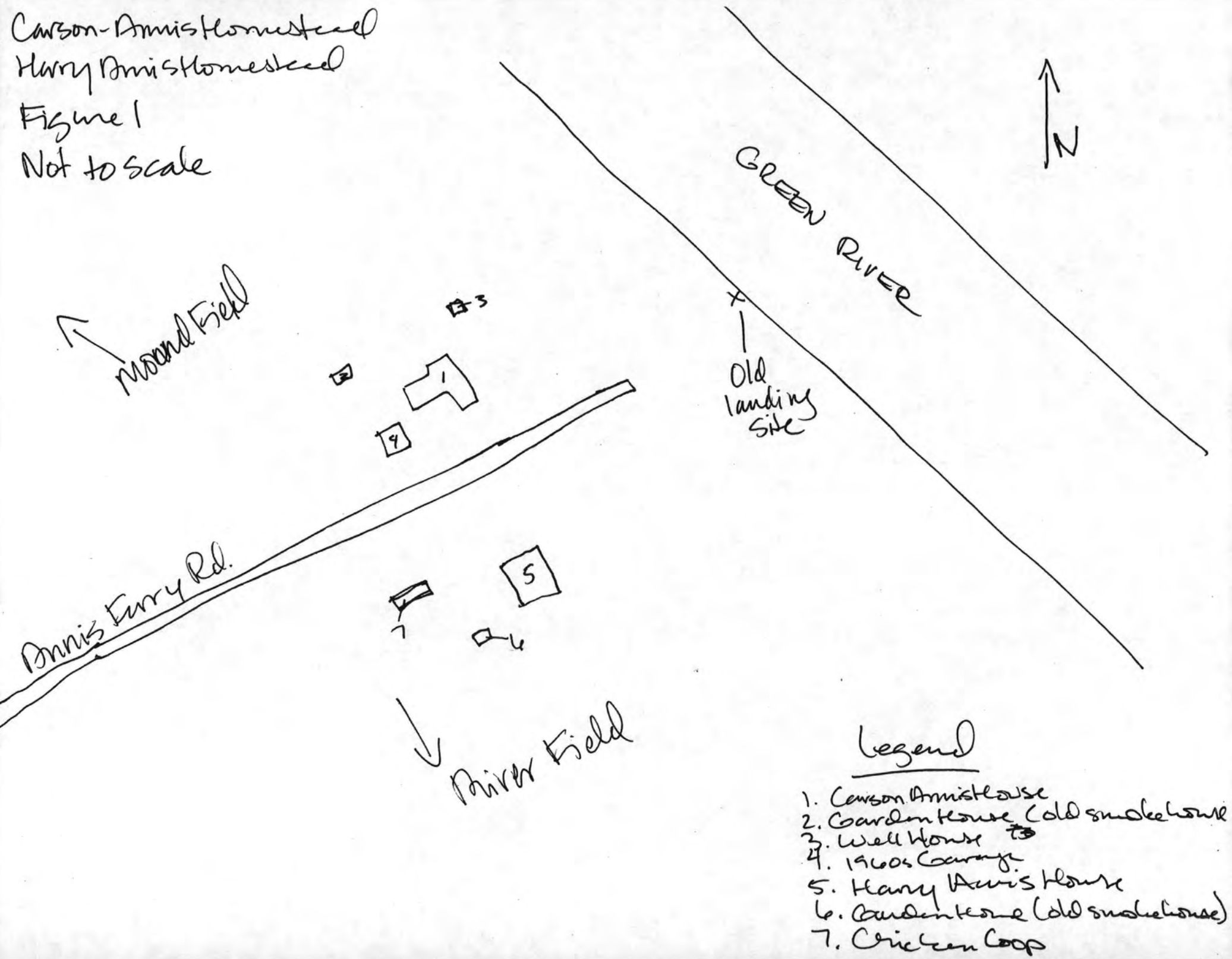
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section __Misc.__ Page _2_

Carson-Annis Ferry Farm
name of property
Butler County Kentucky
County and State

- 28. Wendell Annis Livestock Barn
- 29. Wendell Annis Corn Crib
- 30. Wendell Annis Tool Shed (Former Hog House)
- 31. Wendell Annis Car House
- 32. Wendell Annis 1967 Garage
- 33. Wendell Annis Well House (Former Smokehouse)
- 34. Machinery Shed
- 35. Storage Shed
- 36. Pond

Carson Annisthomestead
Harry Annisthomestead
Figure 1
Not to scale



Legend

1. Carson Annisthouse
2. Carden house (old smokehouse)
3. Well House
4. 1960s Garage
5. Harry Annist House
6. Carden house (old smokehouse)
7. Chicken Coop

Figure 3

Carson - Annis Ferry Farm

Butler Co., Ky

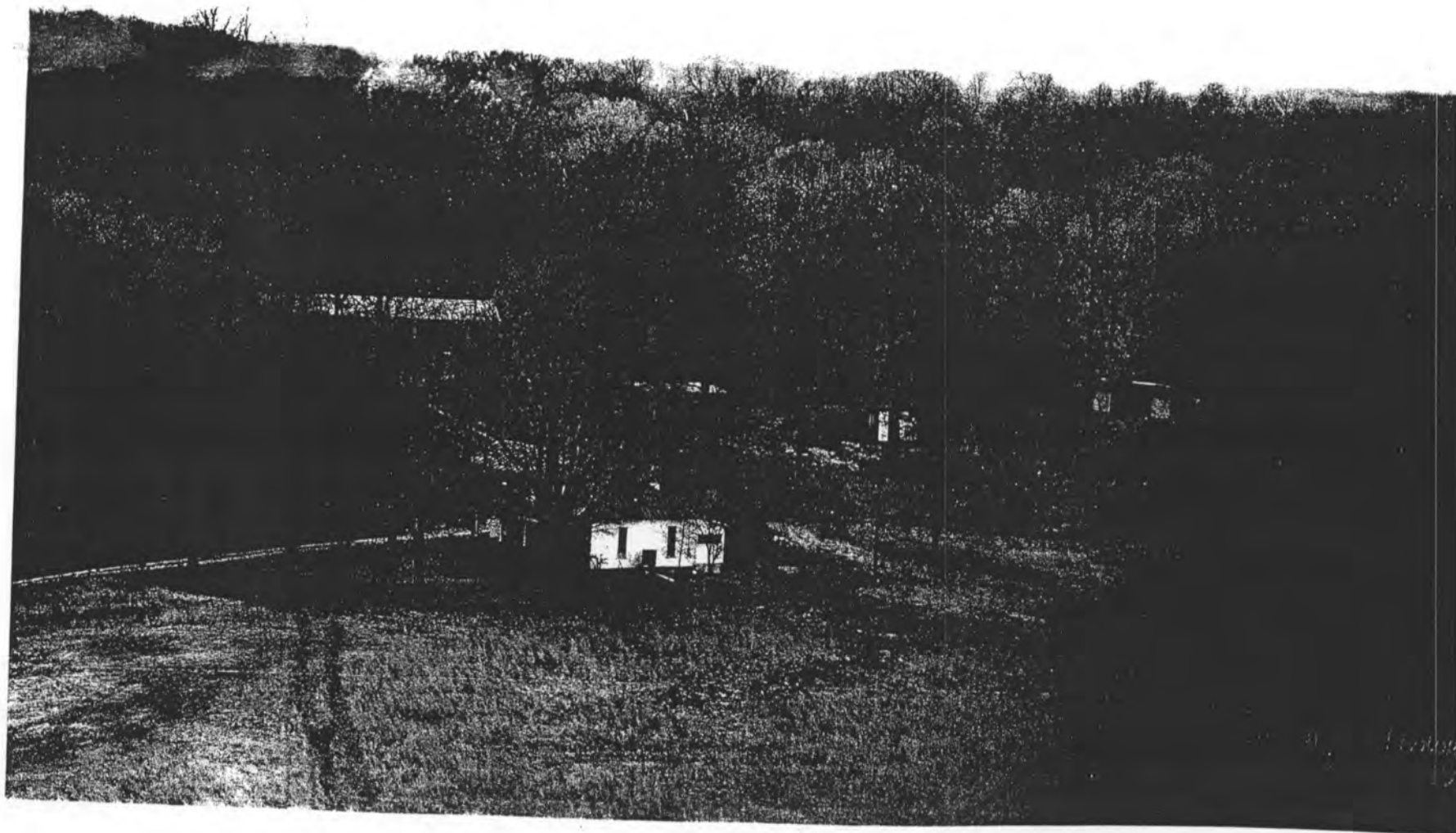
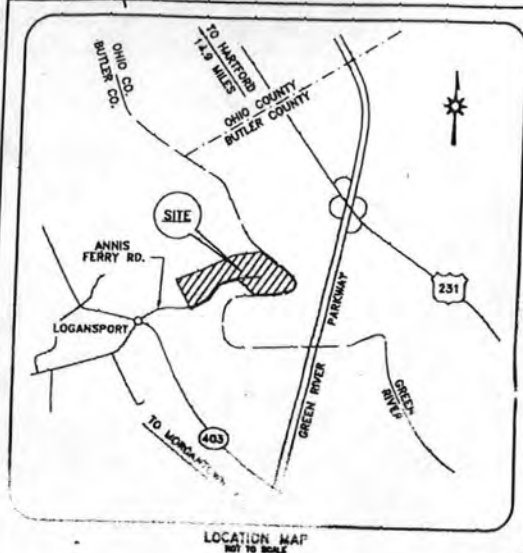


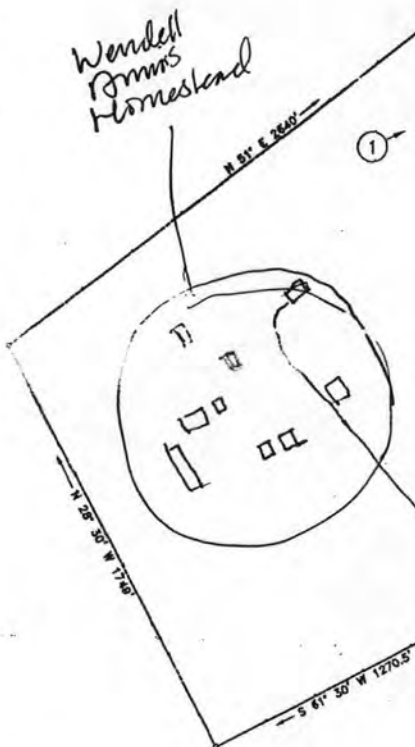
Figure 4

Arison - Arnis
Ferry Farm
Butler Co., Pa.

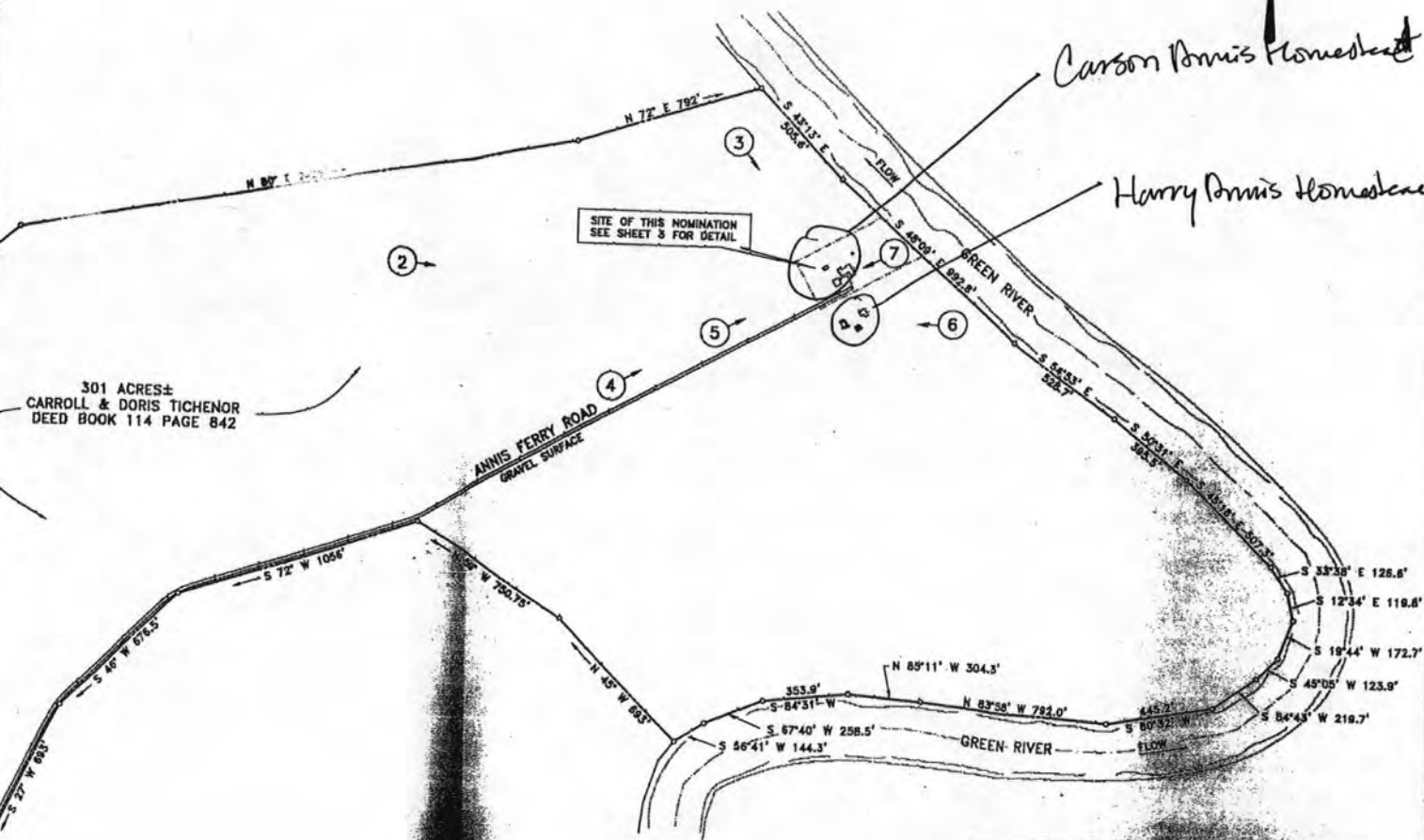




(X) DENOTES PHOTOGRAPH
NUMBER & DIRECTION



301 ACRES±
- CARROLL & DORIS TICHENOR
DEED BOOK 114 PAGE 842



Carson Annis Homestead

• Harry Dennis Homestead



GRAPHIC SCALE IN FEET
REDUCED COPY ~ NOT TO SCALE

PREPARED BY KEITH CROWE 308 N. MANTLE AVE. ELIZABETHTOWN, KY.	PLAT BY DEED CARSON'S LANDING DEED BOOK 114 PAGE 842
	CARROLL & MORIS TICHENOR PROPERTY 1088 ANNIS FERRY ROAD BUTLER COUNTY, KENTUCKY
	DATE 3/11/98 SCALE 1" = 300' SHT. 2 OF 3

Map #3

Carson-Annis
Ferry Farm
Bubler Co., Ky

From



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of Property_____
County and State

Section number _____ Page _____

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 07000286

Date Listed: April 10, 2007

Property Name: Carson-Annis Ferry Farm

County: Butler

State: Kentucky

N/A

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

for Daniel J. Vixie
Signature of the Keeper

April 10, 2007
Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 10. Geographical Data

The total acreage is hereby changed to 289.8 acres, to account for the acreage of two previously listed properties included within the boundaries of the property, which encompass 9 and 2.2 acres, respectively.

[This change was made in consultation with and approved by the National Register staff of the Kentucky SHPO.]

The Kentucky State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file

Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Carson--Annis Ferry Farm
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: KENTUCKY, Butler

DATE RECEIVED: 2/25/07

DATE OF PENDING LIST:

DATE OF 16TH DAY:

DATE OF 45TH DAY:

4/10/07

DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 07000286

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL:	N	DATA PROBLEM:	N	LANDSCAPE:	N	LESS THAN 50 YEARS:	N
OTHER:	N	PDIL:	N	PERIOD:	N	PROGRAM UNAPPROVED:	N
REQUEST:	Y	SAMPLE:	N	SLR DRAFT:	Y	NATIONAL:	N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

___ ACCEPT ___ RETURN ___ REJECT ___ DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Carson-Annis Ferry Farm is locally significant under Criterion A for its association with early twentieth-century agricultural practices in Butler County. As river-oriented commerce waned, agriculture took on an increasingly important role in the local area and became the main source of income for most of its inhabitants. The Carson-Annis Farm reflects the agricultural practices of this transitional period. It includes two previously-listed properties, the Annis Mound and Village Site and Carson's Landing. Today, the property reflects the agricultural history of Butler County and retains integrity from its period of significance.

RECOM./CRITERIA

Accept A

REVIEWER

Daniel Vivian

DISCIPLINE

Historian

TELEPHONE

(202) 354-2252

DATE

4/10/07

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR (Y)/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.





























































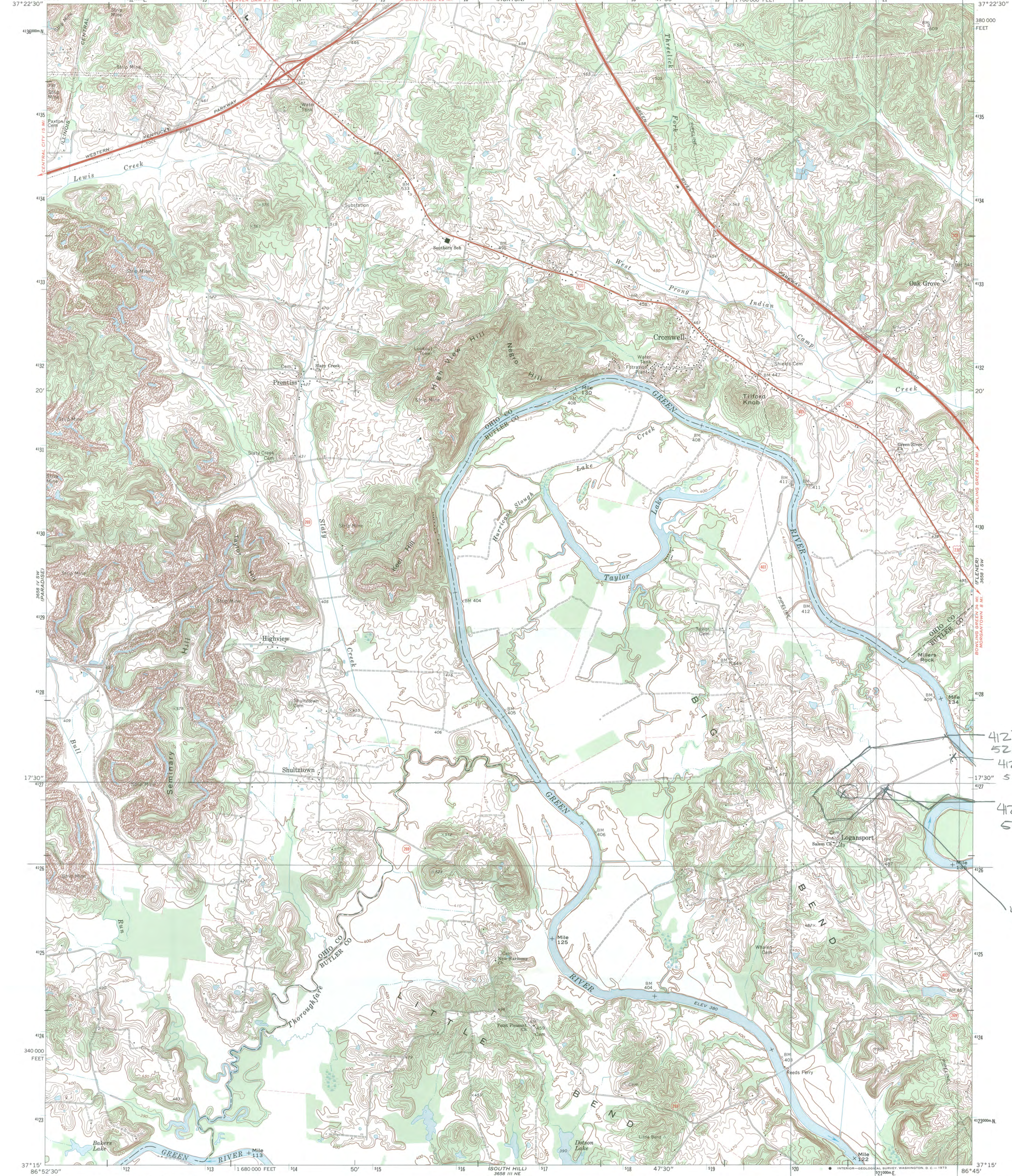














U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

STATE OF KENTUCKY
KENTUCKY GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

FLENER QUADRANGLE
KENTUCKY
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
SW 1/4 SPRING LICK 15' QUADRANGLE



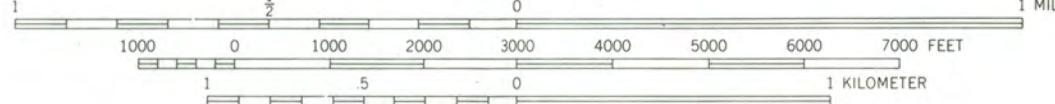
Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1951. Field checked 1954. Revised from aerial photographs taken 1972. Field checked 1973

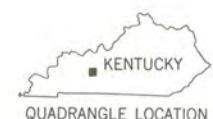
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum 10,000-foot grid based on Kentucky coordinate system, south zone 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 16, shown in blue

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
DOTTED LINES REPRESENT 10-FOOT CONTOURS
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092,
KENTUCKY GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY 40506,
AND KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40601
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



ROAD CLASSIFICATION	
Primary highway, hard surface	Light duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road
Interstate Route	U.S. Route
	State Route

FLENER, KY.
SW 1/4 SPRING LICK 15' QUADRANGLE
N3715-W8637.5/7.5

1973

AMS 3658 I SW-SERIES V853





COMMERCE CABINET
KENTUCKY HERITAGE COUNCIL



Ernie Fletcher
Governor

The State Historic Preservation Office
300 Washington Street
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601
Phone (502) 564-7005
Fax (502) 564-5820
www.kentucky.gov

George Ward
Secretary

February 9, 2007

Jan Snyder Matthews, Ph.D., Keeper
National Park Service 2280
National Register of Historic Places
1201 "I" (Eye) Street, NW 8th Floor
Washington DC 20005

Dear Dr. Matthews:

Enclosed are nominations approved at the January 24, 2007 Review Board meeting. We are submitting them for listing in the National Register:

Weehawken, Franklin County, Kentucky

Paint Lick Elementary School, Garrard County, Kentucky

Union Bus Station, Madison County, Kentucky Heritage Council

✓ **Carson-Annis Ferry Farm**, in Butler County, Kentucky

Note that **Carson-Annis Ferry Farm** calls for the listing of a 301-acre farm which will contain two previously listed properties, Carson's Landing (98000935) and Annis Mound and Village Site (85003182).

A fifth item, **Cleveland Home**, Woodford County, Kentucky, is also included and submitted for listing. That form was approved at the September 28, 2006 Review Board meeting. The submission of the form for listing was delayed according to the owner's request.

We appreciate your consideration of these nominations.

Sincerely,

David Pollack
Interim Executive Director Kentucky Heritage Council,
Interim State Historic Preservation Officer, and
Director, Kentucky Archaeological Survey