Kalarama Saddlebred Horse Farm

Name of Property

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. Name of Property

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(Expires 5/31/2012)

historic name	Kalarama Saddlebred Horse Farm	
other names/site	number WS-878	
2. Location		
street & number	101 Kalarama Drive	NA not for publication

									113 1	or for publication	
city or	town	Springfield							x v	icinity	
state	Kentu	icky	code	KY	county	Washington	code	229		40069	

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

si statish edelal 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 at the following level(s) of significance:
_ national <u>x</u> statewide _local
Signature of certifying official/Title Mark Dennen/SHPO Date
Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government
In my opinion, the propertymeetsdoes not meet the National Register criteria. Signature of commenting official Date
Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government
4. National Park Service Certification
I hereby certify that this property is:
Ventered in the National Register <u>x</u> determined eligible for the National Register
determined not eligible for the National Registerremoved from the Nation
Signature of the Keeper H. Beall Bate of Action 8.5.10

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property

Category of Property

X private public - Local public - State public - Federal

	building(s)
х	district
	Site
	structure
	Object

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Washington County, Kentucky County and State

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
6	7	Buildings
		District
2		Site
3	1	Structure
1		Object
12	8	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

NA

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

Agricultural/ animal training

Agriculture / storage

Agriculture / processing

Agriculture / animal facility

Agriculture / agriculture field

Agriculture / agriculture outbuilding

Landscape / natural feature

7. Description Architectural Classification

Other: No Style

0

Current Functions

Agricultural/ animal training

Agriculture / storage

Agriculture / processing

Agriculture / animal facility

Agriculture / agriculture field

Agriculture / agriculture outbuilding

Landscape / natural feature

Materials (Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Concrete

walls: wood, aluminum

roof: metal, wood

other:

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Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

Kalarama Farm (WS-878) is a renowned saddlebred horse farm located at the northeast edge of Springfield, seat of Washington County, Kentucky. It is an early-20th-century rural horse farm complex. Today, the 400-acre property consists of a series of paddocks and pastures across rolling hills. The land created the appropriate space to allow the horses to graze, run and grow effectively. The farm is being identified and interpreted for its function as a breeding and training operation for a specific type of horse, the American Saddlebred. The farm is bordered by North Walnut Street, Lincoln Park, and Mackville Road. US Highway 150 intersects the farm, with a tunnel under the road connecting the outlying portion. The area proposed for listing contains 340 acres, 12 contributing features and 8 non-contributing features.

Character and Development of the Site

The farm operates an intact saddlebred horse farm. Kalarama Farm is located on terrain that could be used for large-scale agricultural development for crops or cattle. The property's owners, when establishing the farm in the early-20th century, decided to establish a horse breeding operation. Their adaptation of the property resulted in Kalarama flourishing as a Saddlebred horse farm.

Kalarama Farm is located on the site that once housed a 1790 brick mansion belonging to Kentucky's first county court clerk (Kalarama Farm, Our History). Kalarama's original owners, the Isaac H. Thurman family, had a new residence designed and built in 1904 in the Colonial Revival style, and located at the entrance to the farm. Today, the parcel holding the house has been split from the rest of the farm acreage, and is owned by a family unaffiliated with the rest of the farm. The historic Thurman mansion (Photograph 3) retains the visual relationship to the farm that it had historically. Its current owners are not interested in inclusion in the National Register.

I.H. Thurman, and his wife Alice M. Thurman, acquired land and the necessary support, in labor and buildings, to fully realize the vision of this type of horse farm. The original acquisition by Thurman from Palmer and Sarah F. Grundy is recorded in Washington County Deed Book 50 page 46, on January 1 1904, a tract of 317 acres and 3 roods (1 rood = ¼ acre). Thurman purchased an additional 28 acres and 2 roods from J. and Anniew W. Blakeman on March 1 1923 (DB 66, p. 70; Deed Book citations in letter from Simms). Over time, 25 parcels totaling 40.5 acres were sold from the farm, primarily for residential development. These houses line Grundy and Covington Avenues, which one passes to enter Kalarama Farm. I.H. Thurman died in 1930; Alice continued as owner/operator of the farm. Along with son L. Raymond Thurman, Alice Thurman filed a certificate of ownership of business for Kalarama Farm on April 4, 1941 (DB 79, p. 335). Alice M. Thurman died in April 1961, and within a year her two offspring, Raymond and daughter Rodman, had sold the farm (letter from Simms).

Much of the farm was purchased by a real estate development company headed by Clem Lovell. In the mid-1960s, Paul Hamilton began purchasing the acreage to re-establish the farm as a breeding operation. His initial purchase was 110 acres (Weatherman, p. 110). With the restoration of the historic acreage and continued success as a Saddlebred operation, Hamilton and his wife Frances Paralee Mudd Hamilton deeded the 340-acre farm to their daughter, Joan Hamilton, on December 29 2004 (DB 295, p. 102, as per letter from Simms).

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To describe the characteristics of this rural landscape, this form's authors have consulted the National Register bulletin "Guidelines for Evaluating and Recording Rural Historic Landscapes." The bulletin defines 11 processes and components. Processes refer to the natural forces and the workers' actions that have shaped the landscape; the components are the tangible features that have resulted from the processes. A farm is not a static creation, but a continual interaction between human intention and nature. The relevant processes and components, which help describe Kalarama, are bolded below.

The historic **land use and activities** of Kalarama are evident in many different ways. Although there is no information available to determine exactly what the fields were initially used for, it is assumed that early production of hay was significant to the operation. Alfalfa fields for hay would be vital for sustenance of the horses. While tobacco farming seems omnipresent in early-20th-century Washington County, Kalarama seems to have confined its efforts to saddlebred breeding rather than to other forms of agriculture. Within a breeding farm, topography and climate are significant factors. Kalarama consists of gently rolling land with slopes in the 2 to 6 percent range (2 to 6 feet of rise or fall in 100 feet), which is considered ideal for most facilities because extreme grades require more management to prevent erosion and make facilities more difficult to construct (Equine Research).

A remarkable aspect of Kalarama's organization as a working entity is its stability during the historic period. From the Thurman's tenure beginning around 1904 until 1962, no built features were removed from the property. During this time, the family added structures as expansion became appropriate, but once on the property, the physical element became integral to the operation. The principle which governed the value of each feature is functionality. An example of this is the floors of the stalls—a mixture of clay and dirt, which is optimal to maintain the health of the horse's feet and to provide good footing (Equine Research). Even small features on buildings, such as the tailboards, look worn and unpretentious, testifying to the practical nature of farming. It is obvious even to the unstudied observer that this is a working farm that is neither too clean nor too new; it feels authentic.

The farm's **patterns of spatial organization** remain largely in evidence and as they were during the Period of Significance. The roads that were developed to allow adequate transportation to the barns and other structures are located in their original positions. The construction of new buildings after 1962 has resulted in the expansion of some roads. The field patterns have been altered as the farm expanded but many of the fields and fences are still in their original location. The grazing fields that were originally developed to surround the natural ponds are elements in the organization of the farm that is still evident. The overall pattern of the farm and the initial individual buildings that comprise the layout are as they initially were in the early 1900s, again with the exception of a few new buildings constructed as the farm expanded.

The farm **responds to the natural environment**, taking advantage of it, in several ways. The three ponds on the farm are still used in grazing fields as a water source for the horses. The grazing fields themselves are still located in their original place and used for the same purpose. The limestone rock characteristic of the Outer Bluegrass geology becomes a major source of nutrition for the horses. It allows for expansive growth and strong bone development. The climate of the farm has not changed and its effects are relatively the same from year to year. The climate of the area consists of a mild winter, cool spring temperatures, and mild-to-hot summer temperatures. All of these seasonal variations combine into a climate that can allow the horses not only to survive but flourish. The materials of construction used to build the barns are native to this region of Kentucky, such as oak. Local cedar or locust provided the material for construction of fences.

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Circulation networks present on the farm include the road paths that link the various barns and training rings together. Livestock trails that were formed many years earlier still lead the horses to the ponds. Descendents of the horses that initially made the trials now walk those same paths. When US 150 bisected the farm in 2006, a tunnel was constructed under the road to give horses and workers access to the fields on the far side of the road without having to cross the road itself. The tunnel is large enough to have a vehicle drive through and it has provided adequate access to the other side of the farm without any complications.

Boundary demarcations remain largely unaltered. Currently the farm is bordered by North Walnut Street, Lincoln Park, and Mackville Road. The smaller breeding sections of the farm that are fenced off have been undisturbed, serving their same function, i.e., separating the mares and foals from the studs. The fence line of the outside of the property serves as the boundary for the adjacent houses and farms that are located next to Kalarama.

Considering **vegetation**, a few trees stand near the main barn and are scattered throughout the pastures. These provide shade for the horses during the heat of summer. Alfalfa is still grown in many of the same fields to, provide hay and nourishment for the saddlebreds in the winter months. Some trees have grown around the fence line of the property, but for the most part the fence line is well maintained.

The clusters of the building and fences reflect their purpose: that of separating activity areas and housing the saddlebreds. The breeding barns are positioned very close together, near the barns that are used for housing the stallions. The farm's 1937 roman cross barn remains a focal point of the operation. This structure provided a vital separation between the mares and the stallions. The barn afforded the necessary control so that optimum breeding could take place. The training rings are also positioned relatively close to the breeding barns to allow easy movement of the horse from its stall to the ring and back again to the barn. All of the breeding barns, yearling barns, and the black barns that are used to shelter the horses are all clustered to allow access to the animals within a short distance.

Small scale elements such as the millstones, once used to provide leverage to mount a horse, are present and still used on the farm today. The cistern that is inscribed with the message "Lord Bless Kalarama, Its horses and its people - those that come and those that go," creates a legitimate feeling of place and time. The stone pillars that mark the entrance of the farm are a worn yet beautiful element that adds character to the farm itself. The grave marker of Kalarama Rex, purchased by the American Saddlebred Association, rests on the magnificent grave of this majestic horse. All of these elements combine to give the impression of a wondrous place, where champions were born and raised.

All of the barns, storage facilities, training rings, and stables allow the entire farm to work as an integrated unit. The barns hold the feed or provide storage and separate the horses. The stables house these exquisite animals and provide protection from heat, rail, or harsh weather. The vegetation, including the grass from the fields, also provides sustenance for the animals while the pastures provide a place for the horses to run, play, and grow. All of these individual aspects of the farm work mutually in order to develop and maintain the successful breeding of the American saddlebred horse for which Kalarama is renowned.

Changes to the Property since 1962

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Several structures were added in the 1980s to serve the expansion of the farm. These added building are as follows: The equipment shed (Structure 4), equipment shed (Structure 12), White barn and pole canvas building (Structures 14), Open air shed (Structure 17), Hay barn (Structure 18), and the bypass tunnel (Structure 19 added in 2006). The equipment sheds, open air sheds, and hay barns were constructed to accommodate the need of excess hay storage and equipment needed to maintain the upkeep of the horses. The white barn consists of stalls to house yearlings, as the breeding program of the farm developed and continued to be successful. The pole and canvas building that was grouped with the yearling barn was used to house the sawdust and dirt mixtures that are placed in all the stalls throughout the property so that the horses' feet may not become infected or damaged by moisture. The bypass tunnel was constructed when the Highway 150 bypass intersected the property in 2006. The highway intersected some of the grazing fields where the horses were stationed. The farm subsequently constructed the tunnel so that all fields could be accessed efficiently and the horses, as well as equipment, could be transported without having to cross the highway itself. The tunnel runs directly underneath the highway. Other than the brief time when the tunnel was being constructed and access to the fields was not possible, the establishment of highway 150 bypass otherwise did not seem to affect the property.

Description of Features

1. Stone Pillars, contributing structure (Photograph 5)

Upon entering the farm, one passes through a pair of stone pillars. These pillars are each 6' 8" high. They have a square base measuring 2' x 2'. A family dispute caused the pillars to be removed from the farm for a time; they were returned in the early 1960s, when the objecting party passed away (Kalarama Farm, The Early Years).

2. Kalarama Rex Grave Marker, contributing object (Photograph 6)

Feature 2 on the site map, coming up the driveway on the left, is the grave of the premier stallion Kalarama Rex, who died and was buried on the property in 1944. A gravestone (1' x 1'6"), paid for by the American Saddle Horse Breeders Association, marks the location.

3. Training Ring, contributing site

Feature 3 marks one of two adjacent training rings where world class saddlebred horses are still trained today. The training ring that is not fenced-in, which consists of a beaten path, measures 48' x 77'. The other track is a beaten path that is fenced-in by a wooden fence which measures 46' x 70'.

4. Equipment Shed and housing, non-contributing building

Feature 4 is a non-contributing structure of a newly-constructed closed equipment garage made of green aluminum siding with an apartment attached. The structure measures 61' x 12' and it is a central aisled structure.

5. Black Barn, contributing building (Photograph 18)

Kalarama Farm has five similarly constructed structures easily referred to as "the black barns," of which this is one. These five buildings are all wooden barns built circa 1900 that have been painted black. They vary in number of additions and have been updated by necessity. Most of these barns originally used rough hewn logs and/or limbs for structural integrity (Photograph 28). Yet, these rough- hewn logs were not weight bearing. Even those in the center of the barn do not reach the ceiling, implying that all weight is carried on the walls of the building. This can be especially seen in features 15 and 16. Many of these barns also show repair work using old wood from similar structures. Doors are mostly of original wood that slide open on newer metal tracks but they retain the

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original stone stoppers in center. Feature 5 has a large tack room which can easily be used for shoeing and ferrier convenience (86' x 45' 5"). There is a large overhang on the front of the barn which provides shade or shelter while shoeing the hose on the outside of the stall. The barn is a central aisle barn with a gable style roof with purlin style frame. The barn also contains a hayloft and 16 horse stalls.

6. Cistern, 2 Millstones contributing structure (Photograph 32)

Feature 6 is a cistern (8' x 7'6") currently covered in concrete. Its age is unknown. Hand-written when the concrete was wet is the greeting, "Lord Bless Kalarama, Its horses and its people - those that come and those that go." The cistern is no longer in use, as the farm currently uses water from the lake in addition to being connected with the city water system. Next to the cistern are also two columns of millstones where each of the curricular stones are cut at a different width and placed on top of one another. They were probably used as mounting blocks to step up onto the horses or carriages. The stones measure 3 feet in diameter.

7. Main Barn Complex, contributing building (Photographs 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17)

A roman cross barn was originally constructed circa 1900, but burned down in the mid-1930s. This building was built on that same site, in 1937. The primary form of the building is rectangular with a long monitor roof, lit by 8 fixed-sash 3-over-3-light windows. A one-bay projection, covered by a gable roof, projects approximately from the midpoint of the south side. This portion of the barn is currently in use as a series of offices, stalls (Photograph 14), and a hay loft above (Photograph 13). That gable ridge above this office projection splits the monitor's clerestory windows into 2 gangs of 4. The barn is a central aisle barn and includes a hay drop from the hay loft above the main aisle of the barn. A training and judging arena (Photograph 15) was added in 1965, named The Hall of Champions. Another stable (Photograph 16) was built in 2006 to accommodate series of stalls currently housing adult horses. This addition includes wide outer aisles to create an additional training ring large enough to accommodate training with a buggy in inclement weather. Another feature of note in most of the stalls on the farm includes that of tail boards (Photograph 17). This feature involves a 16"-wide board running the perimeter of each stall approximately 3 feet from the ground. The purpose of this is to train show horses to keep their tail high. This is done via a bag and rubber band holding their tails upright at all times. This board prevents the horse from rubbing up against the side of the stall and therefore dislodging this training piece, and the barn itself is primarily constructed with wood planks. The hall of champions and additional stable that incorporates a training ring within it measures 210' x 60'. The main barn itself measures 130' x 60'.

8. Employee Dwelling, non-contributing building

Feature 8 is a recently constructed small home located next to a series of mobile homes.

9. Breeding Barn, non-contributing building (Photograph 10, 19, 20)

The breeding barn is a large white wooden barn constructed circa 1980. The barn is a central aisle barn design with a cross way and it has a gable shaped roof. The barn is primarily constructed of wooden planks. Though not yet reaching the 50-year mark, to signify historical significance, structures 9 and 14, as the breeding and yearling barns, respectively, are vital to the running of the successful saddlebred farm. This structure measures 40' x 150'.

10. Black Barn, contributing building (Photograph 10, 19, 24)

One of Kalarama Farm's five black barns. These five buildings are all wooden barns built circa 1900 that have been painted black. They vary in number of additions and have been updated by necessity.

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County and State

Most of these barns originally used rough-hewn logs and/or limbs for structural integrity (Photograph 28). Yet, these rough hewn logs were not weight bearing. Even those in the center of the barn do not reach the ceiling, implying that all weight is carried on the walls of the building. This can be seen especially in structures 15 and 16. Many of these barns also show repair work using old wood from similar structures. Doors are mostly original wood that slide open on newer metal tracks, but they retain the original stone stoppers in center. Feature 10 contains a series of stalls that houses yearlings as well as maintenance shed to the side (60' x 75'). Small hay bales are stored in the loft of this structure. The barn is a central aisle barn with a gable style roof. There is a small tack room on the inside of the barn. The shed that is attached to the barn is used to store equipment appears to be an addition added in the 1940s.

11. Loading Ramp, contributing structure (Photograph 30)

Feature 11 consists of wooden loading rails where one would back the horse trailer up to this structure and lead the horse through on flat ground to greatly alleviate difficulties in loading. The loading ramp looks like half a hexagon that is built into a small hill, 2' 6" above the road. The two angled sides are constructed of a series of boards which measure 9' 2" in length. The center section is open, measuring 12' 4" in width.

12. Equipment Shed, non-contributing building

This feature is a covered pole shed with aluminum siding that is used to house equipment. It was built in the 1980s.

13. Training Ring, contributing site (Photograph 9, 10, 21)

Feature 12 marks a historic training ring where world class saddlebred horses are still trained today. In the center of the farm complex, feature 12, is an open air fenced in exercise ring used to train saddlebreds (54' x 54').

14. Yearling Barn and Supply Barn, non-contributing building (Photographs 9, 10, 21 and 22)

Feature 14 is a large white wooden barn constructed circa 1980 consisting of a series of stalls housing yearlings. The barn is a central aisle design with a gable roof. Adjacent to this structure, also feature 14 on the site map is a pole and canvas building housing sawdust.

15. Black Barn, Corn crib, and Silo, contributing building (Photograph 10, 23)

One of Kalarama Farm's five black barns. These five buildings are all wooden barns built circa 1900 that have been painted black. They vary in number of additions and have been updated by necessity. Most of these barns originally used rough-hewn logs and/or limbs for structural integrity (Photograph 28). Yet, these rough hewn logs were not weight bearing. Even those in the center of the barn do not reach the ceiling implying that all weight is carried on the walls of the building. This can be especially seen in structures 15 and 16. Many of these barns also show repair work using old wood from similar structures. Doors are mostly original wood that slide open on newer metal tracks but they retain the original stone stoppers in center (100' x 42' 10 inches). This feature involves a small complex including a matching shed and cement silo. The silo appears to be built in the 1950s but is no longer functioning. This building is currently used for equipment and feed storage as well as a number of small calves. The silo is made of 11 concrete rings, each 3 feet high. The barn itself has a manger type hay rack and has a front gable shape roof. It also contains a walking bridge over the left side of the horse stalls. Horse stalls are located on the left side of the barn only. The barn also has a hay loft and the plan of the structure is a central aisled barn. The sheds that are located on the left and right side of the barn appear to be additions that were constructed in the 1920s or 1930s.

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16. Black Barn, contributing building (Photograph 26, 27, 28, 29)

One of Kalarama Farm's five black barns. These five buildings are all wooden barns built circa 1900 that have been painted black. Feature 16 is referred to by the employees as the Pullyam Barn (47' 3" x 57'). This barn includes an overhang with wooden feed buckets connected to the adjacent pasture. Inside, this barn is currently used for miscellaneous storage. The interior of this barn gives an excellent example of rough-hewn logs / limbs used for structural support typical of similar buildings during this time. There are two feeding troughs on the inside of the structure. It has a gable style roof and the structure is rectangular in shape. The base of the barn is two bases deep and four bases wide. The 6'x 8' shed attached to the barn appears to have been a stripping room for tobacco, which means that the barn was probably intended for multi-use (tobacco and shelter of animals).

17. Hay Storage, non-contributing building

Feature 17 is an open air shed used to store large round bales of hay. It is a large rectangular structure made with aluminum siding that was built in the 1980s.

18. Hay Storage, non-contributing building (Photographs 9, 10)

Feature 18 is a wooden pole open air structure which is covered three sides by aluminum siding. It is currently used to house both large square bale hay and round bale hay. It houses an adjacent feeding loft. The roof is a side gable roof and the shed was built with manufactured beams. It is a long large rectangle constructed in the 1980s. The barn measures 59' 1" x 150' 3".

19. Bypass Road and Tunnel, non-contributing structure

This feature was necessitated by the construction of US Highway 150 bypass in 2006 which bisected the farm.

20. Black Barn, contributing building (Photograph 25)

One of Kalarama Farm's five black barns. This building is a wooden barn built in the 1940s or 1950s that has been painted black. Doors are mostly original wood that slide open on newer metal tracks but they retain the original stone stoppers in center (168' x 48'). Feature 20 is located near the road that bisects the farm, is adjacent to a field which currently pens in a number of saddlebreds and one donkey. Though currently housing older farm equipment, the building seems ideal for easy-access hay storage during warmer months (Kennedy & Macintire, 1999). It has a tin roof with four bays and one long bay in the back of the barn. The foundation of the barn mostly consists of the natural ground but the left side is strapped to a concrete pad. It has a shallow gable style roof, and does not seem to be altered in any way.

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8. Statement of Significance Applicable National Register Criteria

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A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	Criteria Considerations
B Property is associated with the lives of persons	Property is:
significant in our past.	A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or	B removed from its original location.
represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant	C a birthplace or grave.
and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.	D a cemetery.
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.	E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
	F a commemorative property.
	G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.
Areas of Significance 🗆	
Agriculture	Significant Person 🗆
	NA
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Cultural Affiliation
	NA
Period of Significance	
1912-1962	Architect/Builder
	Unknown
Significant Dates	
1912, 1962	

Period of Significance (justification)

The dates chosen correspond with the beginning of the period in which Kalarama is recognized as a very prominent breeding operation, marked by Judge Thurman being appointed to the Board of the American Saddle Horse Breeders Association, until the year the Thurman Family sold the farm. These are the major events which bracket the beginning and end of the farm as a significant agricultural entity within its historic context.

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The Kalarama Farm (WS-878), located at 101 Kalarama Drive, in Springfield Kentucky, meets National Register Criterion A and is significant within the context "American Saddlebred Horse Industry in Kentucky, 1912-1962." The 340-acre farm is an exceptional example of a horse farm from the early-twentieth century. Long-time reporter on the horse industry, Lynn Weatherman, said it this way: "Study reveals that Kalarama Farm has had perhaps the most significant impact on the Saddlebred Horse of any single farm or operation" (Weatherman, p. 40). In 1912, Judge Isaac H. Thurman, co-owner of Kalarama with his wife Alice, was given a seat on the board of directors for the American Saddle Horse Breeders Association due to his influence and dedication to the saddlebred horse industry in Kentucky. He held that seat until his death in 1930; his son Raymond sat as a Board member of the ASHBA from 1929 until his death in 1972. The Thurman family sold Kalarama Farm in 1962. This farm is an ideal example of dedication to improve a horse breed by consistently breeding only the best horses available. Kalarama Farm's skill at choosing horses that would improve the breed's heartiness, speed, and temperament is unparalleled.

The achievements of this farm, both historically and currently, fit the pattern of many high-profile Kentucky farms. That is, a wealthy owner from outside agricultural pusuits builds a successful farm by mating his capital with the skills of a very astute farm manager/operator. Judge I.H. Thurman came to Kalarama in 1904 from a career in local politics, and hired Frank G. Peters in 1906, who brought the expertise in breeding and training necessary to increase the quality of horses produced on the farm. After Peters' departure in 1916, Joe Walker and Thurman's son Raymond, fill the critical role of trainers, until the Thurmans discontinue their ownership in 1962. Paul Hamilton rescued the farm from possible dismantling, having accumulated sufficient fortune in coal mining, and hired Larry Hodge, a trainer who accumulated his knowlege on several successful farms. As with the Thurmans, Hamilton family members eventually acquired the trainer's skills, so that current owner Joan Hamilton became both owner and trainer. This pattern of wealthy industrialist establishing himself (or herself) as a gentleman farmer is a highly esteemed social choice in the Bluegrass state. The choice by a wealthy non-farmer to purchase and develop farmland differs from some other forms of investment, in that the owner often more completely identifies with, and is identified with, his or her new status. The ranks of Kentucky's elites have a surprisingly large population of what is commonly referred to as "Gentleman Farmers." Kalarama Farm serves as a dramatic instance of these larger social relationships.

Historic Context: American Saddlebred Horse Industry in Kentucky, 1912-1962

While many types of horses have been improved through selective breeding by Americans, few breeds can be considered completely developed. Much of this improvement of the American Saddlebred Horse was conducted in Kentucky and should be considered a great source of pride for the area (Scharf, 1932: XV-9). As early as 1849, the American Saddlebred had become a distinguishable breed apart from other horses (Taylor:1961, 9). Because of its origins in Kentucky, the American Saddlebred was initially known as the Kentucky Saddler (American Saddlebred Museum).

The American Saddlebred was developed after men discovered their need for a multi-purpose horse: one that could be ridden all day, hitched to a carriage, and perform light farm work. Saddlebreds as a breed tend to possess willing temperaments, bright coats of any color, elegant necks, delicate heads, short backs, and strong legs with flat joints and flexible pasterns (the bone between the ankle and hoof). One of the most noticeable differences between Saddlebreds and other

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breeds is their ability to move with five gaits, instead of the regular three. In addition to the walk, trot, and canter, Saddlebreds also possess a slow gait and a rack. The slow gait is a precise yet stylish restrained movement often exhibited in shows, while the rack is a very fast yet very smooth gait, allowing a longer but more comfortable ride.

Historically, the Inner Bluegrass region of Kentucky is known for its large and elaborate horse farms, but they are not commonly found in the Outer Bluegrass region (Macintire, 2007). One exception is Kalarama Farm. Kalarama Farm is a successful Saddlebred horse farm, one also containing a barn with the distinctive Roman Cross form (Macintire, 2009: 224). At that time, the horse industry was expanding and becoming a vital part of Kentucky's general economy. Kalarama is the only saddlebred farm still in operation from 1912. All saddlebred farms have since been depleted or were established after 1962 (American Saddlebred Horse Directory).

Kalarama Farm has been producing champions in the show ring for 100 years. Kalarama's largest contribution to the breed has been the care and feeding of several prolific stallions who won frequently in the first show rings, and then passed along those winning traits to their offspring. Frank G. Peters began his breeding program in 1906, with the farm's first stallion dedicated to breeding, Red Bird G, a grandson of Cabell's Lexington. Judge Thurman's plan for the farm was to breed the best stallions and mares he could afford (Kalarama Farms).

The characteristics of a high type Saddlebred horse describe a horse that has a tendency to do the easy gaits. The Saddle horse is usually between 15 and 16 hands tall (a hand = 4"). Solid colors are the most common but white marking can also be included. Chestnuts, bays, blacks and browns are the predominant coat colors in this breed. The head is small, with immense nostrils and large eyes. The ears must be pointed and very slender and should sit well forward. The points of the ears give the appearance of looking at one another.

The outstanding characteristic of the model saddlebred horse is his neck, which sweeps upward from the shoulders and arches gracefully at its attachment with the head. The shape of the horse's neck is a main reason for the saddler's perfection of balance and ability to walk so gracefully. The neck of a saddlebred horse is usually longer than that of other breeds, and the manner of attachment at the shoulders is different. The shoulder bone must be flat. A 45-degree angle should be visible from the shoulder bone. This is a feature that makes this breed comfortable to ride. The intense degree of slope cushions the trot of the horse as its hooves strike the ground. The high front movement of the legs also is improved because of this.

The muscles over the loins and kidney areas are distinct and the croup or rump of this horse is almost horizontal to the average person's eye level. The forelegs of the saddlebred horse should be straight, well-muscled in the form and cleanly molded in the lower leg. This creates desirable definition between the bones and tendons. The pasterns are moderately long and sloping and this ads to the "springiness" of the horses stance. The hips of the horse are rounded. The hock is neatly shaped, and the leg is more curved as it connects to the hock than other breeds. The feet are fairly large. There is no other breed besides the Hackneys and show ponies that are required to carry a longer foot with more weight than the saddlebred (Crowell 1951).

Taken as a whole, it is obvious to see this animal as an art form. They are naturally "showy" in the ring: they like to strut and show their pride. This is one of their most admired qualities (Crowell 1951). To be considered a champion, the distinctiveness of the features in the horse must combine as a whole to produce a perfected solid object, a beautiful polished horse (Prosterman 1995).

Kalarama Saddlebred Horse Farm

Name of Property

History of Kalarama Farm

(Expires 5/31/2012)

Washington County, Kentucky County and State

Isaac H. Thurman came into the Saddlebred Horse world in 1904 after serving as. Washington's County Judge. His choice of Frank Peters as his primary breeder and trainer, in 1906, yielded quick success. By 1912, Thurman had become sufficiently successful that he was elected to the board of directors of the American Saddle Horse Breeders Association (Taylor: 1961, 341). In 1912, Peters and Thurman formed a partnership, which recognized the dual importance of both parties to the Farm's success.

Peters' movement closer to the financial interest in the Farm probably influenced Judge Thurman to place higher priority upon acquiring superior breeding stock. The pair immediately set their sites on Rex McDonald, a horse whose owner would not consider selling at any price. They negotiated purchase of Rex Peavine from owner Dr. W.L. Hockaday of Silver Creek, Kentucky, for the then-unheard-of sum of \$10,000, but that deal fell through. Finally, Peters and Thurman approached owner Hiram A. Greenwell of Lakenan, Missouri, and trainer John Hook, to purchase Rex Monroe, a son of Rex McDonald, once again offering \$10,000. This time the deal went through. At the time, \$1,000 would have been an outstanding price for a high-quality horse (Weatherman, p. 41).

Rex Monroe's output established the farm as a cornerstone in the Saddle Horse breeding business, as he served hundreds of mares from 1905 until 1932. Rex McDonald was one of the greatest saddlebred horses ever to be bred. It is believed that he did more to popularize the American Saddler than any other horse of his breed. His remarkable potency has contributed a great deal to the improvement of the blood of the Saddle Horse of America (Crowell 1951). While Kalarama Farm saw great success under Rex Monroe, Thurman and Peters dissolved their partnership in 1916. Joe Walker, who had hired on as a house servant of the Thurmans in 1908, developed his accumen as a trainer, and began to fill the void left by Peters (Weatherman, p. 41).

Rex Monroe's offspring were excellent in and of themselves. As a result, he was eventually sold off the farm because most of the broodmares kept by the farm were his daughters—not the most desirable genetic combination for top offspring (Kalarama Farms). Kalarama's first top show horse was named Nancy Thurman, who in August 1922 foaled Kalarama Rex. Kalarama Rex would eventually be chosen to replace Rex Monroe as the farm's head stud. Throughout his long breeding career, Kalarama Rex's contribution to the improvement of the breed was unsurpassed. He was recognized in 1935 by Saddle and Bridle's Sire Rating as one of the nation's top stallions, a position he held for seven consecutive years (Kalarama Farms). Buried near the entrance of the farm, Kalarama Rex's grave is marked by a headstone donated by the American Saddlebred Horse Association (Photograph 6).

Judge Thurman died in 1932, and his son, L. Ray Thurman, became a partner with his mother, Alice, as the owners of Kalarama. Weatherman notes that in the 1930s the Thurmans began a working friendship with W. Jeff Harris, a professor of animal husbandry at the University of Kentucky (Weatherman, p. 43). From the earliest days of breeding show horses, many operators approached the process as a sort of art, where connoisseurship and intuition produced the best results. The association with Harris indicated the Thurmans acknowledged science as having something valuable to contribute to their enterprise. It demonstrates the family's willingess to widen the vision on how to produce superior horses.

One of the first mares to be bred with Kalarama Rex would produce Society Rex, another key stallion in the Saddlebred history. Society Rex would, over time, sire his own slew of champion offspring. By the time Society Rex appeared, in the 1940s, Ray had taken over more of the operation from his mother, eventually partnering with A. Hastings Fiske, of Indianapolis. The men purchased Society Rex in 1944 for \$7,500. Until his death in 1957, Society Rex was one of the foremost

Kalarama Saddlebred Horse Farm

Name of Property

(Expires 5/31/2012)

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stallions in America. Both he and Kalarama Rex were listed by Louis Taylor's *The Horse America Made* and by the American Saddle Horse Breeders Association as stallions that helped make the breed what it is today. Thurman and Fiske added Art Shouse as trainer, as Joe Walker's participation began to decline (Weatherman, 109).

The Thurman family sold Kalarama Farm in 1962. A real estate development company headed by Clem Lovell purchased the acreage, leaving the buildings intact for rental use by area horsemen while Lovell and company planned their residential subdivision. Lovell sold the acreage to Johnny Pyle. Paul Hamilton, active in the coal business and in road construction, needed fill dirt for a project, and asked Pyle if he could obtain some from the former horse farm. When Pyle turned Hamilton down, Hamilton partnered with Sandy Simms, son of Leon Simms (former manager of the Horse Show at the Kentucky State Fair), and purchased the defunct Kalarama outright (Weatherman, p. 110).

Initially it appeared that Mr. Hamilton saw Kalarama in the same way that Lovell did—as an opportunity for residential development. Once a few house lots sold, Mrs. Hamilton and the couple's daughter Joan forwarded another vision for the acreage—a resumption of the once-great Kalarama farm. By 1972, the Hamiltons had purchased Simms' interest in the farm, rehabilitated the Thurman's house to become their own, and hired Larry Hodge as their trainer. By 1977, the resurrected Kalarama had a world champion, a two-year-old, Razor Sharp (Weatherman, 110). The farm transfered to Joan Hamilton in 2004, who continues to operate it as a successful breeding and training facility.

Evaluation of Kalarama Farm's significance within the context of American Saddlebred Horse Industry in Kentucky, 1912-1962

In total, Kalarama's clients have accumulated more than 100 World's Championship titles, including World Championships in all three major categories—Three-Gaited, Five-Gaited, and Fine Harness. Three-Gaited horses compete at a walk, trot, and canter. Five-Gaited horses compete at a walk, trot, slow-gait, rack, and canter. Fine Harness horses compete by pulling a carriage at a walk and slow trot, as well as standing still in their harnesses.

Kalarama Farm has bred winners in all categories and has helped shape the future of the breed. As a principal American breed, Saddlebred horses have entered the international arena in the horse breeding industry. Breeders in South Africa have purchased progeny from Kalarama Farm to begin their own Saddlebred breeding operations. Kalarama's history, in light of its contribution to American Saddlebred Horse, is unmatched, and its history should be preserved for Kentucky and for Saddlebred breeders and trainers everywhere. It is possible that the case for the national significance of Kalarama could be made, but comparisons to support the evaluation at that geographic scope were beyond the time available for this project. It is clear that the historic activities at Kalarama support the claim for statewide significance. Weatherman's conclusion in the article for *Saddle and Bridle* magazine bears repeating: "Study reveals that Kalarama Farm has had perhaps the most significant impact on the Saddlebred Horse of any single farm or operation" (p. 40).

Evaluation of Kalarama Farm's integrity within the context of American Saddlebred Horse Industry in Kentucky, 1912-1962

The quality of integrity judges whether the property's physical presence adequately conveys its historic significance. The question of integrity for Kalarama Farm asks whether changes made since 1962 make it difficult for us to recognize its identity, and from that, its historic significance as a

Kalarama Saddlebred Horse Farm

Name of Property

(Expires 5/31/2012)

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Saddlebred breeding operation—the source of its notoriety. Our ability to recognize its historic identity and our estimation of its importance combine to form the integrity of association. Integrity of association is the critically important judgment, according to the wording of Criterion A: that the "Property is **associated with** events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history." In this case, the events are those of Saddlebred Horse breeding, within the broad patterns of Agriculture. For Kalarama Farm to be said to have integrity of association, it must have integrity of location, setting, materials and design.

The farm has integrity of **location** because it has occupied the same place since its establishment in Springfield in the early 1900s. The Outer Bluegrass location of the property is somewhat unusual in Kentucky, and thus part of its identity and its significance. It is in an area of the Commonwealth which lacks a large population of horse farms. This relative isolation and lack of nearby supporting infrastructure of the horse industry make its accomplishment all the more impressive. In some measure, Kalarama's remove from the thoroughbred horse culture of the Inner Bluegrass gives rise to speculations about the necessity for horse breeding operations to maintain their tether to Kentucky's archetypal area of horse breeding. The location of this farm must remain an important part of the story of how Kalarama gained its success.

The farm maintains its integrity of **setting** through retention of its connection to the physical environment. The three ponds that provided a valuable natural source of water remain vital assets that are still used today. The hills of the farm comprise a perfect slope to allow the horses to run while not being too flat or too steep. These elements remain perfectly preserved and continue to contribute to the growth and development of the horses. The fences that separate the adjoining fields remain where they were first established. A few have been replaced by the inevitable forces of wear and tear.

The historic **materials** of this farm remain largely intact on the historic buildings. New buildings have been constructed using modern materials, such as aluminum siding, making them clearly discernible from, yet compatible with, the historic buildings. These new buildings support the enduring function of the farm: the breeding of the saddlebred horse. The black barns retain all their original materials and have only been altered by repairs, using similar or identical materials to ensure the function of the barns continues. The roadways that were established on the farm are still located in their unchanged positions and have only been expanded to connect and allow access to new structures.

The **design** of Kalarama remains intact because the farm, plan and spatial organization of the property have not changed. The black barns remain exactly where they were established in the early 1900s and the property expanded over the years while keeping the original barns and structures in their same locations. The topography of the farm is undisturbed, and the new buildings placed in this landscape sympathetically compliment the historic ones, while clearly distinguishable from them, providing additional storage for hay, feed or equipment, needed due to the farm expansion.

The **feeling** evoked by the presence of the barns that housed the beginning yearling in the early 1900s remains when you see the current generation of saddlebred horses in the same stalls, eating out of the same troughs. One can still view the millstones that were put in place to mount the horses, are still used for some beginning riders to be able to lift themselves onto the horse. These stones are also used to assist the children that ride on the farm today. The unfenced training ring that

Kalarama Saddlebred Horse Farm

Name of Property

(Expires 5/31/2012)

Washington County, Kentucky County and State

was used by Kalarama Rex is the exact same ring that his descendents currently travel today. When you observe the worn wood of the barns, the beaten paths and roadways that connect these features, you can easily imagine the farm as it began; all because the majority of it remains unaltered, creating the sensation of authenticity and of a past preserved.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Macintire, Bill. A Survey of Historic Sites in Rural Marion and Washington Counties, 2007.

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Scharf, E.E., Famous Saddle Horses, The Farmer's Home Journal Company, Louisville, 1932.

Simms, Hamilton B., letter of April 9, 21010, to Marty Perry, Kentucky Heritage Council, Frankfort, Kentucky. Letter in Kalarama Farm's National Register nomination file folder.

Taylor, Louis. The Horse America Made, Harper and Row Publishers, New York, 1961.

Weatherman, Lynn. "The Continuing Saga of Kalarama Farm," Saddle and Bridle, September 1978, pp. 40-43, 108-111.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): WS-878

Kalarama Saddlebred Horse Farm

Name of Property 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 340 acres

UTM References Coordinates expressed according to NAD 1927

(Expires 5/31/2012)

Washington County, Kentucky County and State

1	16	658 400	4174 120	3	16	657 300	1170 000	
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	Lone	Lasung	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing	

Verbal Boundary Description

Kalarama Farm is bordered by Mackville Road on the south, Highway 150 Bypass on the east, North Walnut Street on the north, a series of properties facing several streets on its west, and 60 acres beyond (east of) the US 150 bypass. Six adjoining parcels make up the farm and the area proposed for listing. These parcels, expressed as Washington County Property Valuation Administrator's map numbers, make up the proposed nominated property:

18G-067, 25-007, 25-008, 18-047, 18-048, 18-049.

Boundary Justification

These boundary selected includes the acres of the historic Kalarama Farm that are today owned and used as Kalarama Farm. During the historic period, the farm grew, and then began to shrink through selling off tracts for residential development. The boundary selected attempts to limit the listing to those acres that were used by the farm as their operation and which today have integrity.

11. Form Prepared By

organization	Western Kentucky University, Department of Folk	December 8, 2009		
	Studies and Anthropology	date		
street & num	1906 College Heights Blvd	telephone 270-745-6549		
city or town	Bowling Green	state KY	zip code 42101	

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Kalarama Saddlebred Horse Farm

Name of Property

City or Vicinity: Springfield

County: Washington County

State: Kentucky

Photographer: Meaghan K. Poyer

Date Photographed: September 28, 2009 and December 1, 2009

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

1 of 31. Photograph 1: Saddlebred Horses in the pasture.

2 of 31. Photograph 2: Sign to Kalarama Farm on the property of the Thurman Mansion.

3 of 31. Photograph 3: Thurman Mansion, no longer part of the Kalarama Farm property.

4 of 31. Photograph 4: Official Kalarama Sign.

5 of 31. Photograph 5: Feature 1, Front Pillars of Kalarama Farm.

6 of 31. Photograph 6: Feature 2, Gravestone of Kalarama Rex, premier stallion.

7 of 31. Photograph 7: Saddlebred Horse at the fence.

8 of 31. Photograph 8: Close up of Saddlebred Horses in the pasture.

9 of 31. Photograph 9: Saddlebred Horses at the Fence.

10 of 31. Photograph 10: Features 9, 10, 13, 14, 15, 18; View of Kalarama Farm from the pillars.

11 of 31. Photograph 11: Feature 7, Main Barn Complex.

12 of 31. Photograph 12: Feature 7, Window of the Main Barn.

13 of 31. Photograph 13: Feature 7, Interior of the Main Barn, 2nd story.

14 of 31. Photograph 14: Feature 7, Interior of the Main Barn.

15 of 31. Photograph 15: Feature 7, Interior of Arena.

16 of 31. Photograph 16: Feature 7, Interior of extension of Main Barn.

17 of 31. Photograph 17: Feature 7, Training Boards inside Saddlebred Horse Stalls.

18 of 31. Photograph 18: Feature 5, Interior of a Black Barn in the Main Barn Complex.

19 of 31. Photograph 19: Feature 9, 10, 13, 14, 17, 18; Panoramic View of Barns looking down from the Main Barn Complex.

20 of 31. Photograph 20: Feature 9, Breeding Barn.

21 of 31. Photograph 21: Feature 14, Back side of barn.

22 of 31. Photograph 22: Feature 14, Interior of barn: stall door and ladder to loft.

+23 of 31. Photograph 23: Feature 15, BlackBarn, silo, black shed.

24 of 31. Photograph 24: Feature 10, Black Barn.

25 of 31. Photograph 25: Feature 20, Black Barn.

26 of 31. Photograph 26: Feature 16, Black Barn.

27 of 31. Photograph 27: Feature 16, Hay Bins in a black barn.

28 of 31. Photograph 28: Feature 16, Interior of Black Barn I.

29 of 31. Photograph 29: Feature 16, Interior of Black Barn II.

30 of 31. Photograph 30: Feature 11, Loading Ramp.

31 of 31. Photograph 31: Single Saddlebred Horse in Pasture.

(Expires 5/31/2012)

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Kalarama Saddlebred Horse Farm

Name of Property

(Expires 5/31/2012)

Washington County, Kentucky County and State

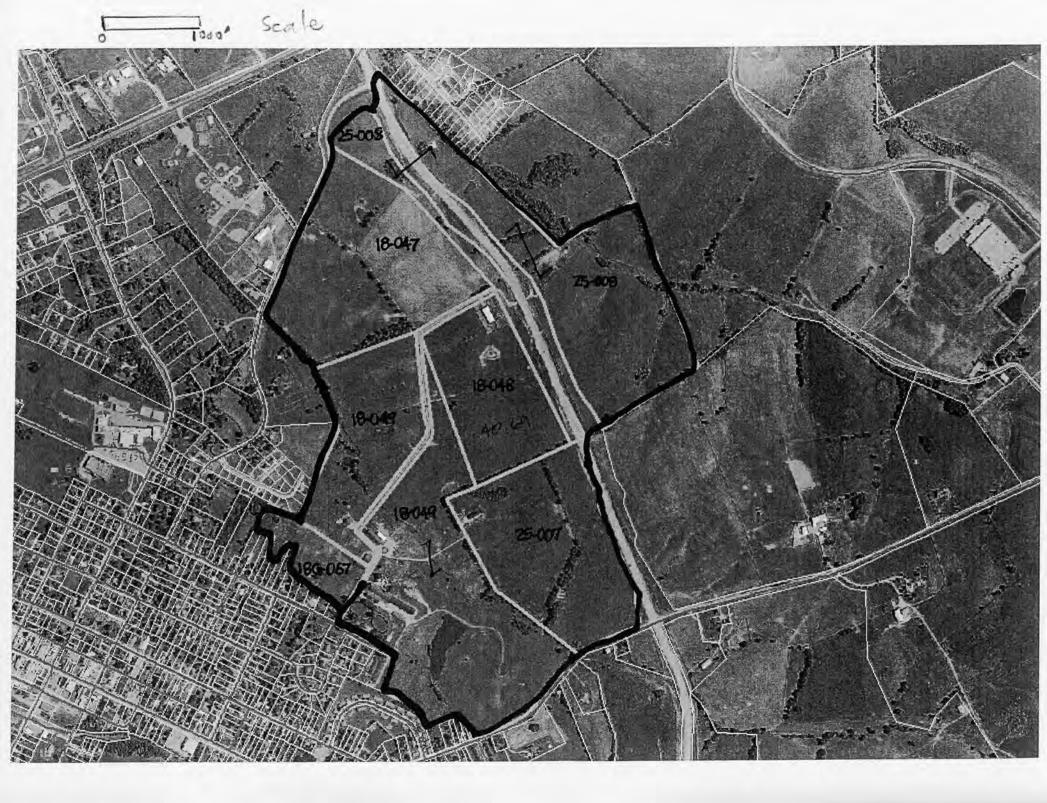
Property Owner:

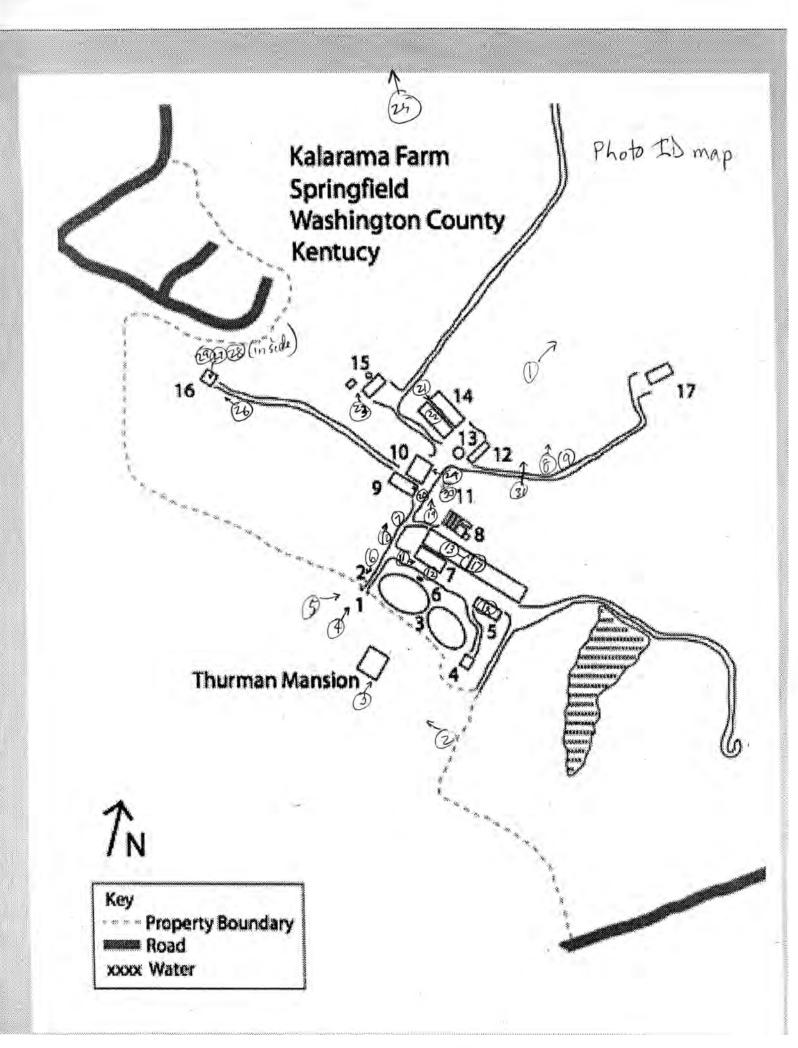
(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

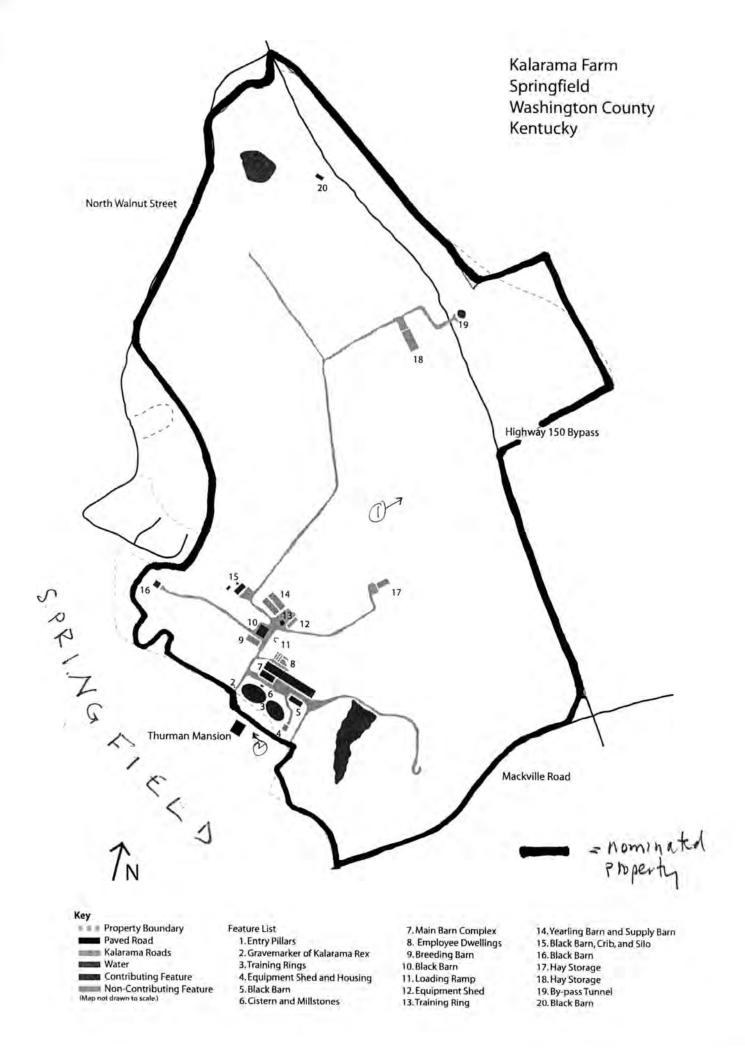
name Paul Hamilton

 street & number
 101 Kalarama Drive
 telephone
 859-336-3409

 city or town
 Springfield
 state
 KY
 zip code_40069







UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Kalarama Saddlebred Horse Farm NAME:

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: KENTUCKY, Washington

RETURN

REFERENCE NUMBER: 10000528

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL:NDATA PROBLEM:NLANDSCAPE:NLESS THAN 50 YEARS:NOTHER:NPDIL:NPERIOD:NPROGRAM UNAPPROVED:NREQUEST:NSAMPLE:NSLR DRAFT:NNATIONAL:N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT

and langemen

8-5.10 DATE REJECT

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in The National Register of Historic Places

RECOM, / CRITERIA		
REVIEWER	DISCIPLINE	
TELEPHONE	DATE	

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.











KALARAMA REX (10704) AUG. 10. 1922 - SEPT. 12. 1944 AMERICAN SADDLE HORSE BREEDERS ASSN











































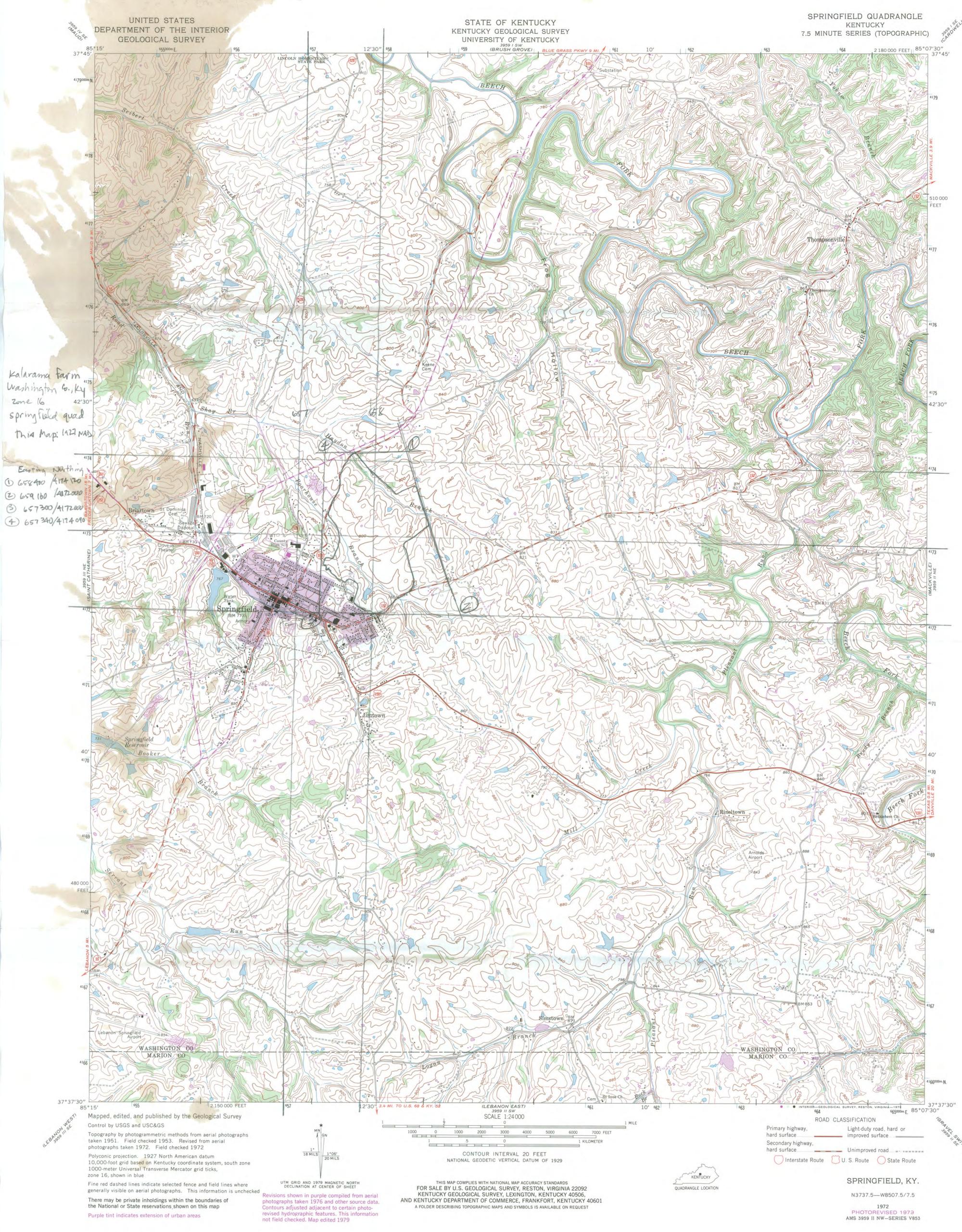














STEVEN L. BESHEAR GOVERNOR

TOURISM, ARTS AND HERITAGE CABINET KENTUCKY HERITAGE COUNCIL

THE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE 300 WASHINGTON STREET

FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40601 PHONE (502) 564-7005 FAX (502) 564-5820 www.heritage.ky.gov

June 10, 2010

MARCHETA SPARROW SECRETARY

MARK DENNEN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

	1
JUN 2 2 2010	1
	1

Ms. Carol Shull, Keeper National Register of Historic Places National Park Service 2280 National Register of Historic Places .1201 "I" (Eye) Street, NW 8th Floor Washington DC 20005

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed are nominations approved at the May 11, 2010 Review Board meeting. We are submitting them for listing in the National Register:

J. J. Nesbitt House, Bath County, KY St. Bartholomew Parish School, Jefferson_County, Kentucky William Dodd House, Jefferson County, Kentucky Christian Church of West Liberty, Morgan County, Kentucky Coombs-Duncan-Brown Farmhouse, Nelson County, Kentucky Standard Oil Company Filling Station, Warren County, Kentucky Maple Grove, Washington_County, Kentucky Kalarama Farm, Washington County, Kentucky

We appreciate your consideration of these nominations.

Sincerely,

Mark Dennen, SHPO and Executive Director Kentucky Heritage Council



KentuckyUnbridledSpirit.com