

PH0500305

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUL 5 1977

DATE ENTERED JAN 31 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Green Family Farm Historic District

AND/OR COMMON

Falls of Rough Historic District *use this*

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

KY 110

CITY, TOWN

Falls of Rough

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2

STATE

Kentucky

— VICINITY OF

CODE
021

COUNTY

Breckinridge/Grayson

CODE

027/085

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: vacant

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mrs. Mary O'Neill

STREET & NUMBER

Route 110

CITY, TOWN

Falls of Rough

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Breckinridge County Courthouse/Grayson County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Hardinsburg/Leitchfield

STATE

Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky

DATE

1970

— FEDERAL STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Kentucky Heritage Commission

CITY, TOWN

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

BUSINESS DISTRICT

Excluding the mill structure itself, all that remains of the commercial district of Falls of Rough are two small frame buildings and a store with a side addition (photo 1). Most interesting architecturally of this small row of structures is the "Cheap Cash Store" at the southwest end of this district (photo 2). Constructed in 1880, this frame building is two-stories high and rectangular in shape. Clapboard has been used to finish the exterior which is painted white. Enhancing the front, or street side, of the store is a returning cornice optically supported by attractive stylized brackets. Three large windows are present at the front of the second floor with lights arranged in a four-over-four pattern. The street level entrance to the store is through a full-height, narrow double door, each side of which has four square fixed lights extending down from the top. Decorative panels are present beneath the first-story windows and also on the doors. These are rectangular in shape. The front facade of the store is greatly stylized by the use of Doric fluted pilasters. These flank the double door for one story and extend upwards to the cornice on the corners. Wooden benches of the most simplistic design are attached to the front of the structure on either side of the door just below the decorative panels mentioned above. The benches are two-inch thick planks and are supported on the ends by triangular wooden brackets. Behind the benches and protecting the lower portions of the front windows are fine metal strips which have been twisted and arranged in horizontal rows. Protecting the benches and the store entrance is a simple overhanging porch roof of thin planking supported by horizontal wood members underneath. Additional reinforcement for the roof was apparently added at a later date in the form of two iron rods attached to the upper story of the front wall. The roof of the porch itself currently has no protective shingling and is in poor condition. Immediately above the porch roof is a narrow, lower cornice trim strip which is currently almost totally concealed by a strip of metal flashing. Immediately above this flashing are painted the words "Cheap Cash Store."

An addition to the main store structure extends from the northeast side. This portion is of a more modest architecture and has a parapeted false front of three different levels. Clapboard finishes the exterior of this section also. A window is present in the upper section closest to the store building, with lights arranged in a four-over-four pattern. A single fixed-light window is located in the next lower parapet. It is square and appears that it may have been cut in at a later date for it does not match the associated woodwork. Two large double freight doors are present at the front of this addition. Simple decorative framing constitutes the structure for the exterior screen doors. The main wooden freight doors have been constructed from opposing diagonal tongue-and-groove paneling, creating a single herringbone design which is quite pleasing. As with several of the buildings in the district, a small "No Trespassing" sign has been tacked to the

(continued)

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

(See below for additional dates)

SPECIFIC DATES Green House--c. 1830 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Falls of Rough was, during its peak period of activity from approximately 1900-1930, a small but thriving western Kentucky town of around 250 inhabitants. It consisted of a complex of buildings that included a grist mill (c. 1830), a sawmill, a mill (c. 1890), a general store (c. 1880), a post office (c. 1905), a church (c. 1890) and parsonage, and the Green farm -- all built by the Green family. The business establishments served a wide area, which in the case of the grist mill was several counties. Although they are presently no longer in use, they remain virtually intact and present a community unique in the state. The 1830 Green residence is still occupied and the farm remains in operation. Many of the older barns stand, as well as several Victorian houses that were built for farm employees. The Greens, who constructed the house and owned the town as well as several thousand acres surrounding it, were one of the most prominent families in the county and the region. Willis Green II (1796-1862), the original owner of the house and mill, was a member of the state legislature (1836-37) and a Representative in the United States Congress (1839-1845) (Collins, p. 145). His nephew, Lafayette Green, to whom the farm and mill-complex descended, was a member of the state senate. However it was as successful farmers and businessmen that the Greens earned their fame and fortune.

Background

Willis Green acquired the original piece of property in 1829 from Judge Benjamin Sebastian, who had bought it from Isaac Hite heirs in 1811 (St. Clair, Leitchfield Gazette, March 6, 1975, p. 1). Sebastian was an associate of Aaron Burr and was involved with Burr, General James Wilkinson, and others in the Spanish Conspiracy, a plot which had as its purpose to establish an independent western state under the protection of the Spanish. Sebastian had been active in all the constitutional conventions prior to Kentucky's entry into the Union, but despite his and the "Court" party's efforts, statehood was achieved in 1792. His former sympathies did not seem to affect his career at the time; he was appointed one of three judges to the Kentucky Supreme Court. However, in 1806 the full extent of his activities on behalf of the Spanish came to light and he was forced to resign from the court (Kerr, p. 310). Sebastian then

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9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Aleshire, Ilene. "Falls of Rough Residents Fight to Protect Property." Messenger and Inquirer. (Owensboro). Sept. 3, 1974, p. 1-B.
- Collins, Lewis, and Richard Collins. History of Kentucky. Berea, Kentucky: Kentucke Imprints, 1874, Vol. II, pp. 293-294.
- Ford, Rodney. "The Old Mill Grinds Away," Courier-Journal Magazine. Aug. 10, 1952, pp. 8, 10, 11. (continued)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 50 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,6	5,3,9,5,7,5	4,1,6,0,4,4,0	B	1,6	5,3,9,8,3,0	4,1,6,0,2,0,7
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1,6	5,3,9,3,4,5	4,1,5,9,8,0,0	D	1,6	5,3,8,9,8,0	4,1,6,0,0,0,0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Kentucky	021	Breckinridge	027
Kentucky	021	Grayson	085

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE: Gloria Mills, Historian;
 Frederick T. Wilson, Archaeologist; Camille Wells, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION: Kentucky Heritage Commission DATE: October, 1976

STREET & NUMBER: 104 Bridge Street TELEPHONE: (502)564-3741

CITY OR TOWN: Frankfort STATE: Kentucky

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE: *Eduard W. Melton*

TITLE: State Historic Preservation Officer DATE: 6/24/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION: *W. D. Smith* DATE: 1/31/78

ATTEST: *Charles...* KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER DATE: 1-25-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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Green Family Farm Historic District
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BUSINESS DISTRICT continued

clapboard on the front of the structure. Both the store and its addition are covered with raised-seam metal roofing. An often unnoticed but interesting aspect of this complex is the placement of lightening rods along the ridgeline of the roof of the store and along the parapeted false front of the addition. All connected with heavy stranded conducting cable, these rods appear as decorative ball finials. A matching weathervane is present atop the roof peak at the front of the store.

The first floor interior of the store is most impressive and remains virtually unchanged from the time the store was in operation. The stock shelves are most elaborate and run almost the entire length of the store building (photo 3). These are divided into units which are five shelves high and faced with nicely milled fluted trim. Semicircular raised fluted arches are present over each set of shelves, and are flush-mounted on the overhead valance. A cornice-like cap is created at the top of this component, and has above and below it extremely stylized cut wooden trim of a repeating design (photo 3). Below the shelves are large square drawers. The main sales counter is in front of the aforementioned shelves and is split into two sections to facilitate access to and from the behind-the-counter area. The store is littered with items of the past which were once sales' items. Scales are present but no longer in use. In the rear is a child's casket, apparently a commodity once stocked by the store.

Above this room there exists another large open room, not quite so elaborately finished (photo 4). The walls, floor, and ceiling are fashioned from even-width paneling with only the window casings having any decorative woodwork. Crude shelves were at one time built on the northeast wall. Work tables, or benches, are still to be seen in this upper room as are scattered historic items. Although used for storage purposes primarily, this room also was occasionally used for a sales display and shopping area.

This store, with its side addition, stands today as a vestige of what was once a thriving small commercial district with an economic stability which afforded this tasteful architecture and stylish interior appointments. The Cheap Cash Store remains almost completely unaltered and in good condition.

Immediately to the northeast of the store stands a very small, white, clapboard structure with an asphalt shingle roof (photo 5). This building exists as a modern intrusion

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BUSINESS DISTRICT continued

to the small commercial district at Falls of Rough, and was constructed less than twenty years ago as quarters for a watchman.

The next structure in this small row of three is a small frame building, originally utilized as a bank. It is simple in design with two front windows with lights arranged in a six-over-six pattern (photo 6). This building later saw use as a post office when that operation was moved out of the Cheap Cash Store. The central front door is covered by a small overhang which has been roofed in raised-seam metal, as has the main roof. The fixed glass in the door still bears the post office decal. Standard gutters are present down each side and the structure is covered with asbestos shingles. A false front was incorporated into the facade design, extending slightly outwards at the eaves.

These three buildings constitute the remains of the Falls of Rough commercial district. When driving on Highway #110, this portion of the community comes upon the visitor rapidly and unexpectedly, being located on a sharp bend in the road which can be seen on the attached topographic map.

SAWMILL

During the days of greater commercial activity, the sawmill at Falls of Rough was one of the busy industries here. Located on the eastern bank of Rough River in Breckinridge County, this operation was situated off the northeastern end of the Arch Beam Bridge (photo 9). Today, nothing remains of the sawmill except its limestone foundation and a discarded portion of its power drive shaft (photo 10). The first Green sawmill was located on the opposite bank of the river in Grayson County, but this later became part of the large grist mill (St. Clair, Gazette, March 20, 1975, A-5). The sawmill structure was a large two-story, barn-like frame building of simple design. An industrial supplement to the Leitchfield Gazette published in 1903 contained a pictorial story on Falls of Rough, including comments on this mill. This was reprinted in 1973 (Gazette, April 5, 1973). Within the article, the sawmill is discussed and reported to be the largest and best-equipped in the western part of the state. At one time, extensive lumbering operations were undertaken in this region, with the cut logs being rolled into the river where

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SAWMILL continued

they were floated downstream to the mill. A water-powered tram car transported the logs into the mill building. (Once at the mill, logs were rolled onto a saw carriage utilizing horses.) The next step in the process was sawing the logs into lumber, after which it was loaded onto a cable-operated tram car and pulled to the lumber yard. Here it was stacked, and once properly seasoned, was ready for shipment. The Green sawmill was reportedly the only one in this part of Kentucky which sawed the famous and high-priced quarter-sawn oak. Seasoned lumber from the mill was shipped to nearly every large city in the country.

The foundation remains, the only surviving trace of the mill following its sale and removal in 1941, are in good condition and appear quite structurally stable. Owing to the fact that this mill and lumber yard once covered several acres, it is possible that archaeological investigations/excavations could provide additional data on this industrial complex. No reconnaissance surveys nor test excavations have been undertaken to date however.

RUINS OF RAILROAD DEPOT

With the commercial enterprises thriving in this community, it was soon necessary to give thought to construction of railroad facilities. With the persistent urging of Colonel Green and area residents, the Louisville, Henderson, and St. Louis Railroad laid a four and a half mile spur line into Falls of Rough from their main line. This was accomplished c. 1890, (St. Clair, Gazette, March 20, 1975, A-5). This line would later be taken over by the Louisville and Nashville Railroad. A frame depot was constructed on the Breckinridge County side of the river which facilitated movement of both freight and passengers.

From available accounts, the depot was quite simple in design, being more functional than decorative. When the railroad line was abandoned in 1941, after fifty years of service (Pedigo, Courier-Journal, October 11, 1964, 4), the depot was allowed to stand empty, falling into a bad state of disrepair. This natural process continued until the structure eventually collapsed under its own weight. Today only deteriorated wooden remains of a platform exist, concealed by the underbrush (photo 11).

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ARCH BEAM IRON BRIDGE

One of several highlights of this community is its arch beam iron bridge. This historic structure consists of a tied arch whose diagonals serve as bracing, while the vertical members support the main deck (photo 7). The bridge is single span and is 148 feet in length (Pike, Leon. Personal communication). Constructed in 1877 by the King Iron Bridge Company of Cleveland, Ohio, it is one of very few arch beam types remaining in the state. Resting on stone masonry abutments, the bridge has a wooden floor with additional planking laid in the tire paths (photo 8). Overhead cast plaques at each end provide the concerned visitor with both the bridge company and its date of construction. Used daily by motorists, the bridge remains structurally sound, and displays only a light covering of rust.

WOODEN BARN

West of the residence on higher ground stand wooden barns which were erected for purposes of housing livestock. All are very large and of a pleasing simple design.

Slightly removed from the main barn complex stands the mule barn with twenty-four individual stalls. Following its original construction, the side aisles were apparently raised, altering the standard pitch of the roof and creating a form of linear gable (photo 12). The roof is covered by raised-seam metal roofing. The exterior of the mule barn is finished in random-width vertical siding which has been allowed to weather. Atop the central ridgeline of the roof are ball pinial lightening rods with a matching weathervane at the northern end. Names of the various mules are to be seen on most of the stalls and at one time included Bill, Hawk, Ned, Mig, Dick, Tom, Eagle, Vic, Doc, Sam, Red, three Kates, Bob, Jim, Mat, and Jack.

To the northwest of the mule barn, three other barns are located parallel to each other. The one at the southern end is of recent construction, but the remaining two are of historic interest. The middle barn of these three (foreground photo 13) was used for oxen. The structure is frame with traces of white paint on its otherwise weathered exterior. Having a central aisle, the stalls were located on either side. Roofing is of corrugated metal and in good condition. The ball pinial lightening rods with matching weathervane are atop this structure also.

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WOODEN BARNS continued

To the north, the third barn was used primarily as an auxiliary mule barn. Of simple design, this structure is in a very similar state to that immediately next to it. A shed has been added to its northern side, and a hayloft door is present on the eastern end. Raised-seam metal roofing covers this barn, and the lightning rods with weathervane are present here also.

At the far southwestern end of the Falls of Rough District, a large barn had been constructed with a structural interior fashioned from hewn logs with mortise and tenon pegged joints. The exterior was finished in vertical barn siding of random width, while corrugated metal was used as roofing material. This roofing was likely added at a later date, not being contemporary with the log construction. Quite recently, high winds damaged this structure considerably (photo 14).

TENANT HOUSE

Located just southeast of the barn complex, a small residence stands partially concealed by small trees and underbrush. The house is covered by horizontal siding in the form of crude clapboard. A small porch on the northern end has collapsed through deterioration. Vertical windows with trimmed casements are present with lights arranged in a two-over-two pattern. The structure's roof has been recovered with corrugated metal roofing material (photo 15). The roof ridgeline is broken by the presence of a central, square stone chimney which has an extended stone band around its upper portion. Currently in poor condition, this building was last used as a tenant house on the farm. It is reported that this residence was originally a log cabin and that remnants of such still exist under the later siding. An interior architectural inspection for this has not yet been conducted.

MILL BUILDINGS

Of leading interest and color within the community is the milling operation which actually provided the commercial basis for the town's development. The main grist mill is a three-story frame structure with a basement area which houses the waterwheel on the eastern end. The mill building is white, finished in clapboard with a gambrel roof covered by raised-seam metal roofing. Large windows abound for the purpose of permitting

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MILL BUILDINGS continued

light to enter the large working areas of the mill. Three windows are present at each end of the third floor with lights arranged originally in a six-over-six pattern (photo 16). The main and second floors also have three end windows and four side windows with the exception of the main entrance at grade on the western end. These window configurations are nine over six. A simple flat fascia board is present beneath the gables of the gambrel roof, extending down to meet the returning cornice. Wooden corner trim is stylized by recessed, arched-top panels. Sheltering the main entrance to the mill is a simple frame porch with an accompanying wooden sidewalk. A small exterior storage shed exists beneath the porch roof which has been covered in sheet metal roofing. A "Posted" sign is affixed to this component, warning all trespassers that they will be prosecuted. Access to the mill is gained through a wood panel door of modest design. Climbing vines have attached themselves to the southwest corner of the mill building, extending to the top of the second floor.

The structure rests on a cut limestone block foundation (photo 17) immediately against the western bank of the river. The mill contains a wooden undershot wheel with hand-carved wooden gears. Still in operation in the late 1960s, all equipment necessary in the grinding process is still intact and operable (photo 18).

Just to the north of Highway #110, between the river and the business district, lies the wool-carding mill building (photo 19). This two-and-a-half-story structure is of the same architectural style as the grist mill, but has a standard peaked roof instead of a gambrel type. Weighing scales are located on the southwestern side of the mill, protected by an overhanging porch roof. Power for this building's machinery was transferred from the main source of the undershot waterwheel to driveshafts propelled by a belt-driven exterior wheel (photo 20). This wheel is iron, with eight flattened "S" spokes. Approximately five feet in diameter, this wheel closely resembles an over-size manual brakewheel as used on railroad cars in the 1880s. All other power was taken from this central horizontal shaft. It is most interesting to note that just above the stone foundation on this northwestern end of the structure, at the far left, are two diagonal cuts in the wooden corner piece (photo 20). This is the result of the belt of steel cable slowly cutting into the wood after decades of operation. The majority of equipment is still within this mill building which has been used recently as a grain elevator and

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MILL BUILDINGS continued

warehouse. With the exception of a few broken windows, a crack in the foundation, and thinning paint, this historic building remains in good condition.

METHODIST CHURCH

Situated on Route 110 at the westernmost limits of the Falls of Rough complex is the Methodist Church. Constructed of frame and weatherboards on a stone foundation, this structure exhibits the simple nave plan that is overwhelmingly dominant for church architecture in rural America. The double-door gable-end entrance is flanked by shortened lancet windows and protected by a later gabled porch roof. The lancet motif is repeated in a window which illuminated the loft of the church from this front gabled end. The repetition of the Gothic pointed arches in the four bays of the axial facades is an allusion to the nineteenth century Gothic Revival, which most tenaciously survived in ecclesiastial structures. The corner boards of the church resemble pilasters, with their simple molded caps. These visually support the wide friezeboard which serves alone as a cornice punctuation at the eaves line. Sheet metal covers the gabled roof.

Taken with the Green family complex as a whole, the Methodist Church represents another in a series of typical, modest buildings of the mid-nineteenth century, representative of a prosperous and secure rural American mind (see photo 21).

WILLIS GREEN HOUSE

Well-sited on a wide lawn with maple trees surrounding, the Willis Green House functions as the visual center of the Falls of Rough commercial, agriculture, and residential complex. The house was originally constructed in 1830 of local lumber and bricks, but it was extensively altered in 1879 and the present appearance of the building is heavily determined by that late-century remodeling. Originally, a one and a half story structure, the Green House is built of brick, set on a peck-finished stone foundation and a stone water table. The main, or south facade is laid in Flemish bond. It is five-bay with a central door, and interior end chimneys (photo 22). The original roof was

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apparently hipped, as is the present one. The house presents an unusual plan, but one which is still within the Renaissance-classical vocabulary which dominated American domestic architecture until the emergence of the picturesque movement. The front or south portion of the house is divided into the standard hall-passage-parlor units. It is the extension to the north from which the plan derives its uniqueness, expanding the main block of the house by a half-pile. This space encloses the stairhall and a small northwest corner chamber, designated as the school room by the Green family. The original plan also included a rear one-story ell, enclosing two additional chambers and situated on the east side of the north or rear facade. Located less than three yards directly north of this ell extension is an original kitchen structure, the front facade of which faces east. It has three bays with an interior end chimney and a gabled roof. Originally, this structure was one story and totally detached from the main house. At some undetermined date, the dependency was attached to the rear ell by a frame dogtrot and was raised to two full stories. The second story, which overhangs the first on the east side, is made accessible by an exterior staircase. Miss Jenny Green called this upstairs space of the dependency the slave quarters, which implies an antebellum date for the addition.

The second important period of construction of the Green house occurred before the Civil War: a brick room of nearly square proportion was added to the north side of the house, its east and south walls contiguous to the ell and the main block.

Visually for the Green House, the most important and unifying build was that of 1879. The entire structure, including the antebellum addition, was raised to two full stories and painted white. A hipped roof and late-century stylistic details were added. With this period of alteration, the entire mass became as proportionally tall as it is sprawling, and although the general set of the structure is still weighty and horizontal, the second story and the late-century elongated windows add a vertical counter-balance.

The Green House is nearly as varied in architectural details as the nineteenth century is in stylistic revivals. Most prominent among the details which survive from

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the first period of construction are two elliptical fanlights over the main entrance and over the doorway on the east wall. Both of these Federal-period arches are classically-molded, emphasized by a row of concave dentils and crested by heavy key stones. They end abruptly at the lintel level, punctuated by doric capitals. The entire effect is rather unfinished because of the floating quality of the arches: the capitals are unsupported by the expected pilasters. Other stylistic survivors of the Federal period include the woodwork in the southwest room of the main pile. This space exhibits the original reeded door surrounds with bull's eye corner blocks and a well-molded Federal mantel with an elliptical sunburst motif in the central frieze block. More austere Federal mantels and moldings remain in the two rooms of the north ell. Also from an early, if not original period is the Greek key motif which is laid in light and dark woods in the floor of the central passage and the stairhall.

While Greek Revival details are present in the antebellum of the Green House, most of the remaining architectural motifs are products of the late-century build. The windows, lengthened to floor level on both stories, are treated variously on the different facades. On the main facade, they are surmounted by elegant cornice and frieze stone lintels. By contrast, on the east and west facades, the lintels are plain stone strips with bull's eye corner blocks. The wooden sills on these facades are late-century sawn and bracketed shelf-like pieces. All windows on the north wall and rear additions are essentially unarticulated. The wide cornice which finishes the hipped roof at the eaves line is bracketed. Two stock cast iron porches are unusually fine late-century details, shading the front and west facade doorways with organic filigree patterns supported and punctuated by slender iron corinthian columns. Late-century interior details have greatly altered the character of the interior, rendering it, despite the light elongated survivor of the Federal period, a dark, Victorian-weight space. A cast iron Italianate mantel has replaced the original Federal one in the southeast formal parlor. All of the door surrounds in the parlor and passage are heavily molded with framework details and cresting. At the structure of the central passage and the stairhall, a Victorian-period archway dominated, enclosing the Federal arched entrance to the house. The curving staircase, with its heavy octagonal newel and matchboard wainscoting is an 1879 feature. In the northwest schoolroom, the same Victorian moldings predominate, but the small mantel is stylistically of the Colonial Revival era.

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The Green House is truly a document of a family's progress through time, as well as an expression of architectural change and development in nineteenth century America. Few structures so vividly exhibit evidences of change, and so gracefully incorporate those desperate elements into a stable and pleasing whole.

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Background continued

moved to Rough River country. He owned land on both sides of the river where the small trading town of Falls of Rough arose. Sebastian built a grist mill, sawmill and general store, none of which stand today. Sebastian left the area in 1824 to live with his son in Meade County (St. Clair, Leitchfield Gazette, March 6, 1975, p. 1).

Surveyors had been in the vicinity of Grayson County as early as the 1780s but the land was largely bought up by speculators and not settled until around 1800-1810. In the early days George Washington is believed to have been one of those that bought land in Rough River country -- 5,000 acres, part of which now constitutes the southwest section of the Green farm. Washington very likely never saw the land but purchased it through agents (Ford, p. 10). During this same period (1781), Isaac Hite, a surveyor from the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia located and acquired title to three waterfall sites on Rough River which his heirs sold some thirty years later to Judge Sebastian (St. Clair, Leitchfield Gazette, February 27, 1975, p. 12).

Willis Green II was the son of a prominent early settler to the Danville area, a member of the May 23, 1785, convention in Danville. In 1830, Willis, a lawyer then residing in Hardinsburg, acquired title to 200 acres from Sebastian on the Rough River that included waterfalls, the town on both sides of the river, mills, and store (St. Clair, Bicentennial Edition of Leitchfield Gazette, p. 2). The same year he brought his wife to Falls of Rough and immediately began the construction of a one-and-one-half story brick house. During the 1830s a sawmill and grist mills were built on the south side of the river. (The first Green sawmill was located on the Grayson side of the river in what later became the sheller room of the grist mill (St. Clair, Bicentennial Edition of Leitchfield Gazette, p. 2).) As the town continued to grow, a general store was constructed. Green expanded his holdings and became widely known as a successful businessman, farmer, and industrialist. He was also well-known in political circles as an ardent Whig and friend of Henry Clay (Ford, p. 10).

Heir to the farm and town was Willis Green's nephew Lafayette, son of Willis' brother Morgan. Willis and his wife Ann had two daughters who died in childhood. After the death of his mother, Lafayette moved from Illinois at around ten years of age to live with his uncle at Falls of Rough. By the 1850s young Lafayette had taken over management of the property as his uncle's health began to fail and had initiated many changes. In

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1855, a flood washed out the dam and store. Holes were drilled in the bedrock, iron pins inserted and the dam built up. After the flood, the grist mill was remodelled and expanded, a three-story woolen mill built, and a sawmill constructed, which was located on the Breckinridge County end of the dam. In 1880 a general store was built to replace the earlier one and became a social gathering place for members of the community. He also made improvements on the house, raising it to two full stories.

Besides his mercantile and milling business, Lafayette can be said to have been at one point the largest individual land owner in the county. He raised cattle for export as well as Shetland ponies which were sold nationwide, all of which accounts for the large number of stock barns on the farm (McKinney, p. 1). There is no doubt of Lafayette Green's preeminent standing in the community. As stated in a local Leitchfield newspaper in 1903, Colonel Green "is probably the largest individual taxpayer and property owner in this section of Kentucky. He takes an active part in promoting the interests of Grayson County and this part of the State" (Ibid, p. 1).

Of particular benefit to the community was a $4\frac{1}{2}$ mile spur line that the Colonel was instrumental in getting run into the town in 1890. The Louisville, Henderson and St. Louis Railroad was later taken over by the Louisville and Nashville who discontinued service in 1939 to Falls of Rough.

While considering his budding empire of business, industry, and agriculture, Colonel Green saw still other needs. The concern of the Colonel's wife Ella for their employees and neighbors resulted in the building of the Methodist Church, still in use today. The church was constructed around 1890, and a parsonage was added a little later (St. Clair, Leitchfield Gazette, March 20, 1975, p. A-5).

Associated with Colonel Green in the management of his great business interests was his son, Willis Green, Jr. (1870-1945); the firms went under the name of L. Green and Son. According to the 1903 Gazette, the Greens had over 100 men on their payroll and were "doing the largest business of any other like concern in Western Kentucky." The following descriptions of the businesses are particularly valuable in gaining a sense of the importance of the industrial complex to the region:

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Background continued

"General Store — This is one of the largest mercantile establishments in the county, and does a large business and carries a large stock. . . .At this store you can get your mail, buy anything in the grocery, hardware, dry goods or any other line. With this establishment the people of that section are certainly blessed. . . .

Sawmill — Across the river from the store in Breckinridge County is located the largest sawmill of L. Green & Son. This is the largest and best equipped sawmill in the Western part of the State sold in 1941 and dismantled .

Flouring Mill — This is one of the best equipped water mills perhaps in this section of the country. They have the high patent brand of flour besides the stright and medium brands. A good grade of water meal is one of the specialties. Here the famous stone dam built across the falls is an interesting feature. The mill is practically new and well equipped with new up-to-date machinery. A large elevator, formerly the woolen factory building, stands near the mill and affords ample room for the storage of grain. Custom work a specialty. Highest market prices paid for grain."

The grist mill served seven counties,with the wheat at first ground on stone burrs, later steel rolls. The flour had a wide distribution, selling under the names "Grayson Lily" and "Good Enough." From 1905 to 1908 a small bank was opened. The post office was later located in the bank building.

Besides Willis, Lafayette had two other sons, Preston (1877-1944), and Robert (1882-1943), and a daughter, Jennie (1879-1965) none of whom married. The property remained undivided. It was principally under the management of four children of Lafayette Green that the real heyday of operations at Falls of Rough was reached and the period when the greatest wealth was accumulated. After the depression, however, the sawmill slowed down and soon ceased operation. The flour milling continued operation until the 1960s, but on a reduced scale after the death of the Green brothers.

Mrs. Mary O'Neill, the present owner and relative of Miss Jenny Green, resides in the Green family house maintaining a working farm. However the mill and store are no longer in operation.

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Verbal Boundary Description

The area being nominated is bounded at its southeast extent by a point on the Green Farm road approximately 1100 feet south of the west bank of the Rough River where it is spanned by the Iron Bridge, extending west approximately 1000 feet, and from this point continues northeast paralleling the Green Farm road and Highway 110 to a point on the Rough River approximately 1100 feet north of the Iron Bridge. The district boundary extends southeast 1000 feet to a point on Highway 110 approximately 800 feet from the east bank of the Rough River where it is spanned by the Iron Bridge.

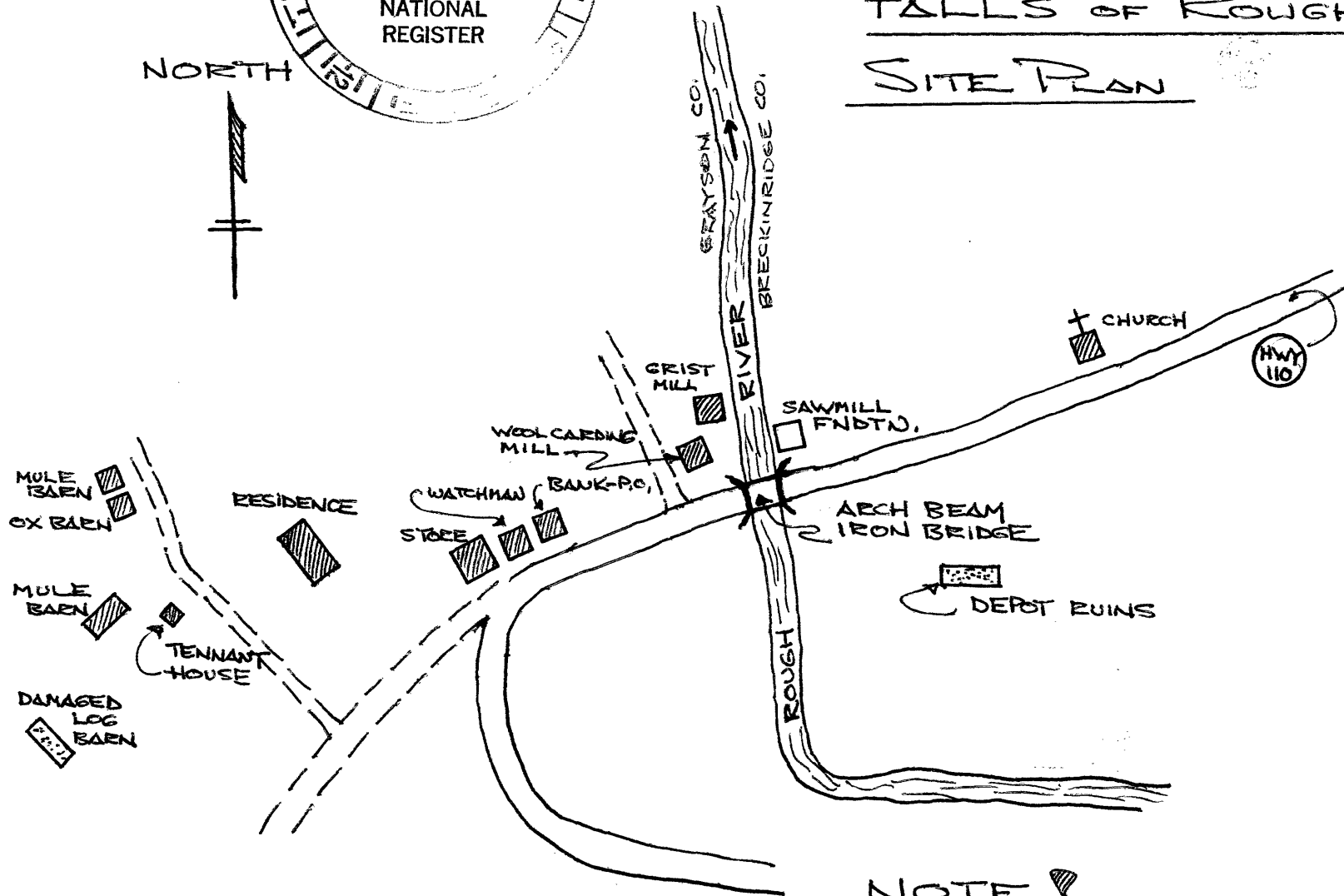


NORTH



FALLS OF ROUGH

SITE PLAN



NOTE ! NOT TO SCALE:
FOR LOCATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY

Green Family Farm Historic District
Falls of Rough, Grayson and
Breckinridge County, Kentucky
Site Plan Map
No scale

JAN 31 1978 Map 2