

2018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

OCT 16 1989

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Cobblestone Path, City of Bardstown
other names/site number NEB-137

2. Location

street & number East end of Flaget Avenue, north-east to Broadway NA- not for publication
city, town Bardstown NA- vicinity
state Kentucky code KY county NELSON code 179 zip code 40004

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	_____	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>1</u>	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: n/a
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register n/a

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

David L. Morgan 10-9-89
Signature of certifying official David L. Morgan, State Historic Preservation Officer Date
Kentucky Heritage Council

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): _____

Entered in the National Register 11/16/89

Andrew Byers
Signature of the Keeper

_____ Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Transportation/Road-related (vehicular)
Transportation/ pedestrian-related

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Transportation/ pedestrian-related

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other: Limestone Cobbled-paving

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation _____

walls _____

roof _____

other Stone/ Dolomite Limestone

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

See: Continuation Sheet, Item 7, page 1.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Transportation

Period of Significance

1785-1825

Significant Dates

n/a
ca. 1785

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Significant Person

n/a

Architect/Builder

n/a

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

See: Continuation Sheet, Item 8, Page 1.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

See: Continuation Sheet, Item 9, page 1.

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 # n/a
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # n/a

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Kentucky Heritage Council, City of Bardstown Archives & Nelson Co. Records

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property .8 acres approximately

UTM References

A

1	6
---	---

6	3	5	3	1	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	1	8	5	6	3	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone Easting Northing

B

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

C

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See: Points 'A B C & D' on Attachment (MAP) #4 corresponding to the existing outside corners of the nominated resource.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes all of the city owned property which has been historically associated with the nominated resource.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title David H. Hall, CLG Director

organization CLG/Preservation Program, City of Bardstown date August-1989

street & number P.O. Box 368 telephone (502) 348-2144

city or town Bardstown, Kentucky state Kentucky zip code 40004

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

City of Bardstown, Cobblestone Path (NEB-137)

Section number 7 Page 1 Nelson County, Kentucky

Item 7 - Description - Cobblestone Path, City of Bardstown

Connecting to the east end of Flaget Avenue in Bardstown, Kentucky, the cobble paved roadway ascends the eastern bluff overlooking the Towne Branch of Stewart's Creek on a sharp tangent from northeast to southwest (Photo 1). At the bottom, the hand-laid paving ends abruptly where the old roadway was cut off by ditching for east Broadway (also called Powerhouse Hill). Near the top, as the cobbled way curves toward a junction with present day Flaget Avenue, the paving disappears under earth fill which was applied during street modernizing sometime after 1900. (Site plan attachment 1) Thus, the final ascent for pedestrians is now by means of tiered steps composed of cut cross-ties with gravel in-fill (Photo 2). The top of the steps and end of the cobbled path is the original road-bed for 1st Street or 'Front Street' as shown on Bardstown's first recorded Street Plan (Attachment 2). Thus, the nominated area is a linear resource roughly 100 feet wide and 350 feet long.

The area which encompasses the Cobblestone Path (See map attachment 4) is bounded by the First Street right-of-way to the west and the old turnpike roadway now called Oakley Court to the east. On the north a sharp tangent is created by the steep hill which is East Broadway. On the south the boundary is the north lot line of property which is east of what is now designated First Street. All of this cliff side terrain has historically been considered part of the street system and/or public right-of-way and thus, property of the City of Bardstown. The contiguous area in nomination will measure approximately two-and-one-half acres.

Nelson County is located at the far western edge of the Bluegrass

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

City of Bardstown, Cobblestone Path (NEB-137)

Nelson County, Kentucky

Section number 7 Page 2

region of Kentucky and includes the Knob formations in the south and west areas of the present County boundaries which geologically mark the change in terrain from Bluegrass, to the western Pennyryle and south-central Barrens region. The original portion of Bardstown is physically located on a peninsular shaped plateau or table-like formation extending south with an elevation of approximately 650 feet above sea level. Demarcating this comparatively level tongue of tableland are creeks and branches flowing south, southwest to the Beech Fork of Salt River, elevation 485 feet, which is approximately one mile south of the old town's southern limits. The Withrow Creek drainage on the west forms a deep canyon and has many fingers toward the north, one of which reaches east, north-east toward the north-west tip of the old street plan. But the principal natural feature of Bardstown's landscape is the deep canyon formed by the Towne Branch of Stewart's Creek determining the town's eastern limits by a natural wall of cliffs and outcroppings which tower fifty to seventy-five feet above the valley floor (Attachment 3).

Today, the Cobblestone Path physically abutts the Bardstown Historic District on the eastern side at the top of this bluff. There it strikes the old street plan about equi-distant north and south in the original spread of four-and-one-half blocks (Attachment 2). This is adjacent to contributing elements numbers 197 & 198 on the Thomason and Associates July, 1982 survey/study for the National Register District. The actual length of cobbled roadway showing is approximately 350 feet in length and varies in width from original total width near the top of 28 feet to 12/15 feet wide where downhill portions of paving have been lost to erosion at two major points (one received repairs more than 50 years ago). The curbing edges extant are large, shaped slabs six to ten inches thick set deep into the ground to lock in the paving (Photo 3). The cobbles are irregular in shape, of local dolomite

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

City of Bardstown, Cobblestone Path (NEB-137)

Nelson County, Kentucky

Section number 7 Page 3

limestone, and set into the ground on end six to twelve inches deep. The north or bottom end of the path now severed by Broadway, an active vehicular street, is within 150 feet of the branch flow created by the 'Big Spring' which determined the Town site and original 1000 acre land claim which included the Bardstown pre-emption (Attachment 3). Near the bottom terminus the paving remains intact with both curbing edges in place for a distance of 40/50 feet. Within this stretch is located a flight of old cut-stone pedestrian steps which descends the steep bank off the east side of the cobbled roadway, down to the surface of the old Bloomfield-Springfield turnpike, now Oakley Court (Attachment 3). These have continued in regular use during the last sixty years as the common access to the lower end of what now is a footpath only.

As the cobbled path ascends the cliff, natural outcroppings of limestone protrude from the uphill side at various points forming vertical wall-like sides (Photo 4). Approximately half-way up the incline a huge individual limestone boulder the size of a small house is located on the downhill side between the cobbled path and the old turnpike, lower down (Attachment 4). A deep crevasse separates it from the regular cliff formations and apparently, added movement of the towering boulder or continuing erosion of underlying limestone have allowed a settling tilt of the entire cobbled road bed at this point.

Two other natural features of this topography within the nominated area deserve individual mention. Near the top of the cobbled path as the curve begins toward 1st and Flaget Streets, the cobbled surface is embraced by natural limestone outcroppings on both sides. On the downhill or east side, this formation is raised twenty to thirty inches above the cobbles and resembles a very large irregular table top and close-by the road surface serves as a ready bench. By using it as an

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

City of Bardstown, Cobblestone Path (NEB-137)

Section number 7 Page 4 Nelson County, Kentucky

access walkway and pursuing the same formation south and east, this jutting, flat topped rock becomes the local look-out point called LOVERS LEAP which was a favorite outing and picnic spot in the period after the Civil War through the end of the 19th century.¹ Below the 'Leap-Lookout' perhaps 25 or 30 feet and physically somewhat south, is a small, dry cave which also was made famous by romantic stories of the 19th century (Attachment 3).² The mouth of the cave is located about equi-distant from top to bottom on the face of the cliff and is physically difficult to reach either from above or below. It is presently obscured by heavy undergrowth and vines which is quite the opposite to the condition of natural cover recorded one hundred years ago.³

Today during warm months, the Cobbled Path becomes almost a continuous tunnel for most of its length created by the arching green branches which meet overhead. Native hardwoods, vines and undergrowth create a greater sense of solitude and isolation than really exists since a variety of businesses and residential properties are within 100 feet of the setting. The greater density of the surrounding growth and major trees has increased in the last seventy-five years with changes in the use of adjacent property, the nearby road system and maintenance methods and frequency. Near the top of the path are remnants of more formal, decorative landscaping plants such as evergreens, bush honeysuckle, jonquils in the spring and one single, towering spruce which stands downhill from the former residence of Mrs. Ernest Fulton (#198, Thomason Survey, 1981-82). During the 1920's and 30's this lady adopted the remaining stretch of historic roadway and personally beautified the upper portions while also maintaining and even repairing its entire length, to stabilize sections threatened with erosion.

Considerable wear and rounding of the exposed stones is evident

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

City of Bardstown, Cobblestone Path (NEB-137)

Nelson County, Kentucky

Section number 7 Page 5

with examination at various points along the paved surface (Photo 5). This indicates accumulated years of constant use by shod animals and heavy, wheeled traffic to render such uniform wear. Also indicated by the uniformity is that the majority of cobbles have never been disturbed since the original paving was laid.

Today the Cobblestone Path continues to provide a vital pedestrian connector down difficult terrain from the east end of Flaget Avenue to the bottom of the hill on East Broadway where a commercial skating rink is located. Across Broadway, the tourist-visitor oriented 'Old Bardstown Village' complex and Civil War Museum occupies the former City Waterworks building and physical site of the first municipal swimming pool (Site plan, Attachment 1). The nominated area and historical resource is in good condition and is not threatened by any planned or pending developments or construction projects in the area or adjacent to the site. One area of paving should receive repairs and/or stabilization in the next decade to halt further undermining erosion. Recognition of this historic resource through the National Register process can assist vitally in effecting these repairs.

FOOTNOTES

1. See: Smith's Historic Nelson County, p. 320
2. The popular 19th century stories about the cave serving early settlers are the 'first living quarters' and shelter for animals and supplies is highly unlikely due to its true size, depth and isolation. It also does not connect to the mythical 'cave system' which is supposed to be 'under Bardstown'. See: Smith's Historic Nelson County, p. 320.
3. See: Smith's Historic Nelson County, p. 319 and attachment 3.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

City of Bardstown, Cobblestone Path (NEB-137)

Section number 8 Page 1 Nelson County, Kentucky

Item 8 - Significance - Cobblestone Path, City of Bardstown

The Cobblestone Path is significant under criterion A as a remarkable example of late 18th century paved roadway which was probably the most important single entry point to the street plan of Bardstown, Kentucky between 1785 and 1825. The steep incline was the final approach, the last few hundred feet of various roads and traces including the Wilderness Road. They had combined by intersections further east, then entered Bardstown by this single artery, thus connecting it with the great settlement area of the central Bluegrass region and the old settlements east of the Mountains. Improved by order of Congress and the Kentucky legislature before 1800, this avenue for pedestrian, wheeled and mounted traffic played a vital role in commerce and transportation during the earliest decades of development for Bardstown and central Kentucky. The rare survival of this stone paved road illustrates the permissible grades resulting from adapting to natural features during the earliest period of Kentucky's public improvements.

The significance of this stretch of roadway calls for a comparison with any similar resource in the local area and Kentucky. In Nelson County no other stretches or pieces of early road, with original paving and integrity of setting, have been identified or are known to exist. A piece of the Wilderness Road (G-51 KV) about 3500 feet long is believed surviving just east of Cumberland Gap.¹ The only other recorded paved roadway resource in Kentucky is the Peterson Avenue Hill (JFEF-790) in Louisville, Kentucky.² Built about 1902, paved with vitrified brick, part of the regular grid street pattern, and still serving vehicular traffic today, it has little to compare with the Cobblestone Path except similarity of grade and the rarity of surviving original paving material. Thus, the conclusion is indicated that elements of the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

City of Bardstown, Cobblestone Path (NEB-137)

Section number 8 Page 2 Nelson County, Kentucky

Wilderness Road in Kentucky and late 18th century examples of roadway with integrity of paving and setting are singular historic resources.

The County seat, Bardstown was founded in 1780 and grew rapidly from 1781 to become the most important new Town on the west of the 'Great Settlement Area'. Nelson County, Virginia began official governmental functions on January 1, 1785, only the fourth county division made in what had been Kentucky County. For seven years, until Statehood in 1792, Nelson County included a geographic area equal to about one-sixth of present day Kentucky. Bardstown quickly became a major point on the 'Wilderness Road' and important for government, the professions, education, crafts and manufacture, plus a regional trade center. The earliest road system led to Bardstown from the east, by order of the Military authorities including the infant Federal Government, dictated by the need to safely move critical supplies to the Falls, in the on-going struggle against the Indian tribes.³

There are approximately 373 National Register buildings, structures and sites listed in Nelson County. Outside of Bardstown there are 15 individual properties and two individual National Register Districts listed in Nelson County while the Bardstown Historic District includes 211 contributing structures. There are 10 others within the Bardstown City limits, including Federal Hill and Wickland both equi-distant, about one-half-mile, from the Cobblestone Path, which is the only surviving section of circa 1800 paved roadway and surrounding environs in the greater Bardstown area (Attachment 1). The cobbled hill connected into the east end of Arch Street at its junction with Front Street after a steep climb up cliffs utilizing natural bench and outcroppings.

The original street plan for Bardstown still in use was finalized

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

City of Bardstown, Cobblestone Path (NEB-137)

Section number 8 Page 3 Nelson County, Kentucky

by 1790 utilizing a regular grid pattern with cross alleys and all regular 'in-lots' one-half acre in size.⁴ Numbered streets ran north and south, including 'Front Street' or 1st Street at the eastern edge with the named streets running east and west, which included 'Arch Street' as it was named on the 1789 Calhoon survey.⁵ By 1795 Arch Street was the original primary entrance from the east to Bardstown for the Wilderness Road from Cumberland Gap via Danville, present day Perryville, Springfield thence Bardstown and on to the Falls (Louisville) by Bullitt's Lick.⁶

The sharp cliffs and limestone outcroppings west of 'Towne Branch' (Stewart's Creek) formed a natural, eastern boundary for the surveyed street plan of Bardstown. One of the large springs feeding this strong creek was called the Towne Spring or the Main Spring.⁷ It was this natural water source which determined the original land claim made by Wm. Bard in 1775 and ultimately the location of the Town Pre-emption.⁸ This pair of Springs (two major veins very close together) is actually located in the right-of-way (132 feet wide) running east-west which was 'Main Street' on the 1789 street plan but long since changed to Broadway. The major spring formed a deep cove in the eastern bluff so that, physically the Spring is located west of the surveyed right-of-way for 1st Street. Thus, the actual terrain has always made it physically impossible for 1st Street to be located where the Town Plan and lot lines call for it to be. At the bottom of the Cobblestone Path (the north end) the branch flow created by the 'Big Spring' is within 150 feet and about on the same level after descending the bluff (Attachment 4). As Bardstown was settled and divided into lots (1780-85) the physical location of the Major Spring (the original Publick Water Supply) plus the final decision for location and width of streets probably determined the location and building of the Cobblestone Path. This resource may have resulted from an improved natural path or game trail climbing the precipice from the natural water

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

City of Bardstown, Cobblestone Path (NEB-137)

Section number 8 Page 4 Nelson County, Kentucky

source to the higher ground to the west.

The lay of the land and all early records indicate the earliest road from the east (that is the 'Wilderness Road') came down the west side of Towne Creek from a natural ford several hundred yards north of the 1825 bridge, continuing into the remnant piece of cobbled roadway to climb the cliffs into Bardstown via the east end of Arch Street.⁹ The initial road system which developed from the earliest traces and trails was dependent on negotiating the terrain and location of natural fords to cross major streams. It was in a constant state of flux as the country changed and new towns were established creating the need for more direct travel. By 1815 plans were underway to upgrade the Public Road system and by 1825-30 the great era of Turnpike building began in Kentucky. Within this period the Bloomfield and Springfield Turnpikes were constructed which produced an improved entry into Bardstown from the east.¹⁰ This relegated the cobbled hill to a short-cut path for pedestrians, light wheeled conveyances and mounted riders (Attachment3). Continuing changes in road systems, commerce and the advent of modern motor cars about 1900 produced further street improvements and curbing in Bardstown which finally isolated the cobbled hill from everything but foot traffic by about 1920-30. That circumstance has assured the survival of the original paving and general integrity of site, terrain and structure. Today the City of Bardstown continues the preservation and maintenance of the Cobblestone Path for both its Historical interest and import to the community but also for its practical benefits which it continues to provide after almost two hundred years.

The remarkable terrain, setting and texture of the cobbled surface makes a trip up or down the footpath an unusual experience relative to gauging the truth about travel and transport conditions for our pioneer predecessors.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

City of Bardstown, Cobblestone Path (NEB-137)

Nelson County, Kentucky

Section number 8 Page 5

Item 8 - Significance - Cobblestone Path, City of Bardstown - FOOTNOTES

1. It is noted as in good condition though slightly 'overgrown' and there is no mention of paving. It can only be identified with certainty as the Civil War era "Kentucky State Road", although probably part of it is the Wilderness Road. See: Resources Files, Kentucky Heritage Council, Frankfort, Kentucky, (G51-KV).
2. Op.Cit-Resource Files, Kentucky Heritage Commission, Frankfort, Kentucky, (JFEF-790).
3. See: Kincaid's Wilderness Road, p. 185-189 about Congress authorizing improvements for military supplies and mail service. Also the Kentucky legislature moved in 1795 to improve the artery to a 'wagon road' from single file, pack-horse conditions; See Chinn's Kentucky Settlement and Statehood, p. 366.
4. Minutes, Bardstown Trustees, page 5 & 6 (Begun sometime in 1789) ordered the Calhoon survey to be located according to Spring Street and to lay off the "two springs in the most convenient manner to include them in the town". Later that year it was "Resolved that the main street now called Spring Street (present day Broadway) be one hundred and thirty-two feet wide". On the 13th of November, 1789, George Calhoon was directed to "make out a fair plot of Bardstown, certified under his hand as Deputy Surveyor for the County and fix lasting boundaries to each of the corners of every lot in said Town---on or before the first day of May next" (May 1,1790). See: Minutes, Bardstown Trustees, 1789-1827, Filson Club, Louisville, Kentucky.
5. On Wm. Bard's original plan for the town (no copy is known to have survived) the size of blocks, general town plan and location of streets was obviously about the same as the final Calhoon Plot Plan adopted after 1789 (still in use today). Bard's plan called for one-fourth acre lots rather than the later one-half acre plan now utilized. Arch Street was originally called "NELSON": Main (now Broadway) was Spring Street and there was also a "Bard Street", location unknown. Bard's numbering system for lots was based on the one-fourth acre system thus bore no relation to the Calhoon Lot numbering adopted. See: Nelson Co. Minute Bk A, 1785-1788, pg. 87.
6. Two of the earliest and most important Taverns were located within the first block from the top of the cobbled hill at 1st Street. Capt. Bean's Tavern which hosted the exiled prince, Louis Phillipe and his party in 1797 lay on the north side of Arch Street (Lot #54) between 1st & 2nd. The House of Israel Dodge (1st Tavern License in the County) was located on the southwest corner (Lot #61) at 2nd & Arch commonly called the 'Stone House Tavern' after 1789. In addition, John Rowan lived on Lot #58 until removing to Federal Hill in 1801. Entrepreneur, Walter Beall lived opposite (northside) of Rowan on Lot #55, conducting a broad range of business including regular wagon delivery of cast-iron produce from the BOURBON IRON FURNACE, near OWINGSVILLE, in which he was an original partner (Beall ultimately traded his interest in the IRON WORKS for individual control of the "Bardstown Pre-emption", after 1800). These early businesses and leaders were located to take advantage of ready accessibility for the traveler arriving via "Wilderness Road" from central Kentucky. The first Market House erected by the Bardstown Trustees was at 3rd and Arch Streets, two blocks from this terminus. See: Chinn's Kentucky Settlement and Statehood, 1750-1800, Ky. Historical Society, 1975, pages 366 & 370

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

City of Bardstown, Cobblestone Path (NEB-137)

Section number 8 Page 6 Nelson County, Kentucky

7. The Nelson County Court, August 23rd, 1785, ordered "the Public buildings --be fixed and established contiguous to and within one hundred yards of the main Spring", after first ordering them erected in the South Publick Square. This, later proved unworkable - they were ordered back to the Square and, by order, May 23rd, 1786, the PRISON BOUNDS were established where 'prisoners' could serve their own needs. The 'Bounds' gave prisoners access to all the popular Taverns of that early day PLUS, access to the Public Water Supply (the main Spring) at the bottom of the Cobbled Path. See: Nelson Co. Kentucky, Court Minute Book 'A', 1785-1788, Filson Club, Louisville, pages 22-86 & 87; also page 99 and attachment 5.

8. After apparently making some kind of improver's markings for the land claim encompassing the area to become Bardstown in 1775, William Bard returned and actually built a 'cabin' in 1776, not far west of the 'Big Spring' in the general area now marked by the town water tank located on part of Lot #31. The actual claim presented by Bard to the Virginia Land Commissioners in session at Harrodsburg, December 24, 1779, reads as follows: "William Bard this day claimed a pre-emption of 1000 acres of land at the State price---lying on a branch of Chaplin's fork of Salt River between Stewarts Creek and Buffalos (sic) Creek to include his Cabbin by improving the same, by building a Cabbin on the premises in the year 1776. Satisfactory proof being made to the Court they are of opinion that the said Bard has aright (sic) to a pre-emption of 1000 acres including the said Improvement and that a certificate issue accordingly." (dated) December 24, 1779' A copy Teste

(signed) Achilles Sneed DClerk

This copy which documents that original claim action presented the first time the Commission held sessions in the District of Kentucky was found in the loose paper records of Nelson County. Location of the original 'improver's cabin' was indicated on a survey detailing all the original major land-claims in the Bardstown area including the Bard-Owings pre-emption, also found in Nelson County's bound volumes of Court Records. Copies of these two documents are in the archival files of the City of Bardstown, CLG Program.

9. Confirming the location of this original road's final approach to Bardstown, an entry in the Nelson County Order Book, 1816-1818, which is dated 1816, reads as follows: "On the application of Nathl. Wickliff ordered that Thos. Wathen, William Gibson & John Crozier being first sworn before a Magistrate---do view & report truly & impartially to court the comparative conveniences & inconveniences which will result as well to individuals as to the public by altering the road from the end of Arch Street at Stephen Ormsby's lot, to where the road leading from Bairdstown crosses the town Branch this side of Thos. Speed's farm in such manner as said Wickliff may direct." (Stephen Ormsby bought Lots 55 & 56 from Walter Beall in 1803). Nelson County Bound Records, Co. Clerk's Office.

10. The Bloomfield Turnpike was also called the 'Frankfort Pike' since it was the favored route through Bloomfield, on to the Capitol after better roads developed (1815-1830). The Springfield Turnpike was also called the 'Lexington Pike', connecting on to Danville and Harrodsburg, then Lexington. Apparently completed with these 'new roads', the two met just east of Towne Creek and crossed that stream by means of a King Post bridge on high stone abutments. The final climb into Bardstown was then achieved by a long inclined plane which turned south, under the bluff and just before reaching the old cobbled hill. The new pike ran south while climbing just beyond the end of present day Stephen Foster where it made a sharp, 180 degree switch-back, then returned north

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

City of Bardstown, Cobblestone Path (NEB-137)

Section number 8 Page 7 Nelson County, Kentucky

more than a city block on a gradual incline to connect to the east end of Arch Street (now Flaget) where the major entry to Bardstown from the east had always been. Since the rebuilding of East Stephen Foster (Old Market) with 'the Fill' in 1933-34, which bridged the deep valley formed by Town Creek, the remaining incline from the old turnpike between Stephen Foster and Flaget Avenues has become the First Street road-bed. (See attachments 3 & 4) The final results of street improvements after 1930 for cars and trucks was creation of the physical isolation (fill and curb-drainage) at the top of the cobblestone path.

#9 Bibliography, Cobblestone Path, NEB-137

Atlas of Nelson and Spencer Counties, Kentucky. Philadelphia: D. J. Lake and Company, 1884.

Chinn, George Morgan. Kentucky Settlement and Statehood, 1750-1800. Frankfort, Kentucky Historical Society, 1975.

Kincaid, Robert L. The Wilderness Road. Middlesboro, Kentucky: 1966, originally published, 1947 by Bobbs-Merrill Company.

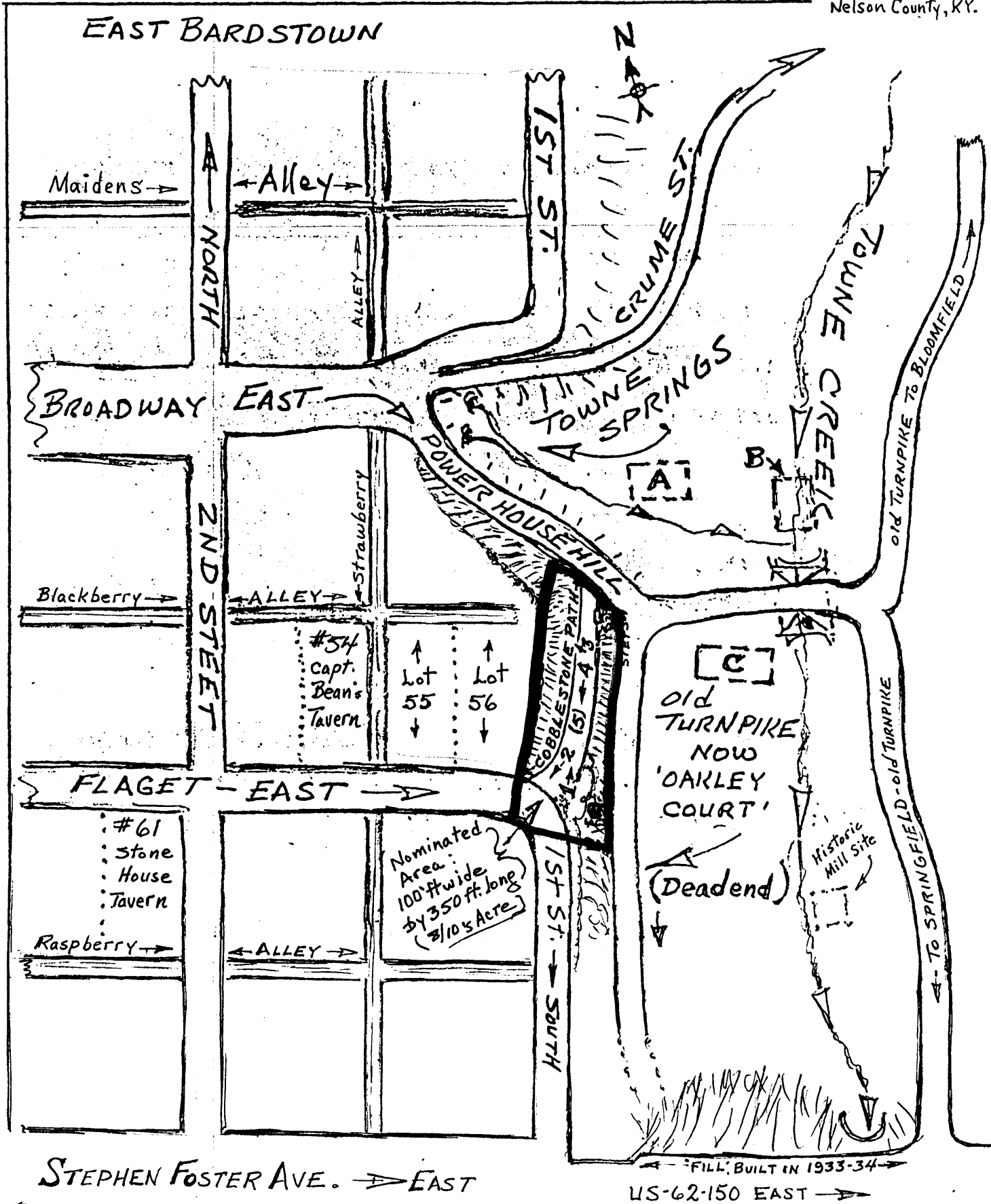
Little, Lucius P. Ben Hardin, His Times and Contemporaries. Louisville: Courier-Journal Company, 1887 (p. 595, Engraving-Illustration).

Smith, Sarah B. Historic Nelson County. Louisville: Gateway Press, Inc., 1971.

Bardstown Trustees, Minute Book A, 1787-1827, Filson Club Collection, Louisville, KY: (typed copy from original by Samuel J. Boldrick, dated October 22, 1936.

Nelson County, Minute Book A of the Court, 1785-1788, Filson Club Collection, Louisville, KY: (typed copy from original by Samuel J. Boldrick, dated February 19, 1936.

Nelson County Records, Bound and Loose Paper, 1785-1825: includes original fragments of Minute Book A of the Court, 1785-1788 and Nelson County Order Book 1816-1818.



STEPHEN FOSTER AVE. → EAST

PHOTO KEY: 1 →
 photo detail: (5)

LEGEND: MAP NOT TO SCALE
 [A] = old City Power-Water Works
 B = old Swimming Pool Site
 [C] = Commercial Skating Rink

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

City of Bardstown, Cobblestone Path (NEB-137)

Section number Key Page 1 Photo Nelson County, Kentucky

Section Number 'Photographs', Page 1

PHOTO INFORMATION, EXCEPT AS LISTED INDIVIDUALLY, IS THE SAME FOR ALL

- 1) City of Bardstown, Kentucky, Cobblestone Path
- 2) Bardstown, Kentucky
- 3) David H. Hall
- 4) February, 1988
- 5) CLG Photo Archives, City Hall, P.O. Box 368, Bardstown, Ky. 40004
- 6) Looking down the path (toward north-east) with E. Broadway in the distance.
- 7) Photo #1

- 6) Looking south-west toward E. Flaget, top of path with cross-tie steps.
- 7) Photo #2

- 6) Detail, cobbled surface and curbing stones, uphill - west side.
- 7) Photo #3

- 6) Looking up (toward south-west) from half-way point with curve at top.
- 7) Photo #4

- 6) Detail, cobbles' irregular shape, pattern, texture and wear.
- 7) Photo #5