

KENTUCKY HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

79003599

Ck-171

1. Historic Name (s) Van Meter Distillery		22. ADD/County Bluegrass/Clark	
Original Owner Ben Van Meter		23. Zoning Classification Magisterial District	
Present Name		24. U.S.G. S. Quadrant (15'/75') Austerlitz	
3. Owner's Name George Van Meter		25. UTM Reference Zone 16 Easting 744580 Northing 4213460	
4. Owner's Address 811 Boonesboro Road, Winchester, Ky. 40391		26. Prehistoric Site Historic Site: <u>Bldg</u> Object: <u>Structure</u>	
5. Location Van Meter Road		27. Listed Yes <u>No</u>	
6. Open to Public Yes <u>No</u>	7. Visible from road Yes <u>No</u>	8. Ownership Private <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/>	
9. Local Contact/Organization		28. Significance Evaluation	
10. Site Plan with North Arrow		29. Status National Landmark <input type="checkbox"/> National Register <input type="checkbox"/> Landmark Certificate <input type="checkbox"/> Kentucky Survey <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2/17/77 Local Landmark <input type="checkbox"/> HABS/HAER <input type="checkbox"/>	
11. Architect		30. Theme Primary <u>commercial/industry</u> Secondary <u>agriculture</u> Other <input type="checkbox"/>	
12. Builder		31. Endangered <u>Yes</u> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
13. Date post 1865 and c. 1890		32. ATTACH PHOTO	
14. Style <input type="checkbox"/>		Roll No. <u>Roll 32 #26-34</u>	
15. Original Use distillery and house		Picture No. _____	
16. Present Use barn/abandoned <input type="checkbox"/>		Direction _____ Slide taken	
17. Condition <input type="checkbox"/> Interior <input type="checkbox"/> Exterior <u>good</u>		33. Tape No. _____ Negative No. _____	
18. Description Distillery has large hewn rafters and vertical members.		34. Prepared by: ACW-AOJ-CMT	
19. History Ben Van Meter built the distillery right after the Civil War; he went broke around 1870 with shorthorn business. Herefords brought in around 1840. Moore-Van Meter Whiskey made here. Van Meters from Hardy County, Virginia. "BFV" 1877 Beers Atlas.		35. Organization KHC	
20. Significance Built soon after the Civil War by Ben Van Meter, this log and frame distillery produced Moore-Van Meter whiskey. In the 1870s, Van Meter lost his fortune when the demand for short horn cattle subsided and the economic prosperity of this entire area declined. This structure was eventually converted to		36. Date Fall 1976	
21. Source of Information George Van Meter.		37. Revision Dates _____ 38. Staff Review _____	

20. a barn.

This site represents the pattern most common in 19th century Kentucky of decentralized, small scale local industries. There was at this time no major concentration of industrial or even commercial activity in the major towns. Instead, people with the wealth and means ran small industries on their own land, and the products they produced were generally marketed on a very local level. Large scale industry and marketing is really a post railroad development in Kentucky. Therefore, this site is a rare survivor from an earlier economic and social order.

