

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
 RECEIVED JUL 16 1979  
 DATE ENTERED OCT 11 1979

**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

Athens Historic District

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Athens-Boonesboro Pike

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Athens

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

06

STATE

Kentucky

VICINITY OF

CODE  
021

COUNTY

Fayette

CODE  
067

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

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

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

See Continuation Sheet

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

VICINITY OF

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Fayette County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Lexington

Kentucky

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

| CONDITION                                     |   | CHECK ONE                                   | CHECK ONE   |
|---|---|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED (Parker House) | <input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD      | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS                                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR                 | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED                              |   | DATE late 1800's.<br>(Rose's Store)               |

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The small community of Athens is located in the southeastern portion of Fayette County, ten miles southeast of Lexington and one-quarter mile from the Interstate 75 interchange with Athens-Boonesboro Road. It lies in the midst of cultivated agricultural lands with several residences, primarily farm related, dotting the countryside.

Athens consists of a four-block area on either side of the Athens-Boonesboro Road. There are two streets to the northeast paralleling the main street, with one street to the southwest. The town is primarily residential, with only three commercial buildings remaining.

The district is composed of what are believed to be the oldest buildings and most significant historically and architecturally, as well as two Victorian commercial buildings, all of which go to form the core of the community. The residences are located on the north side of the Athens-Boonesboro Road, between Democrat and Cleveland Roads. The two groceries are on the south side on the main street, diagonally across from the residential buildings.

Buildings within the district boundaries include the following:

(1) Dr. Parker House is a two-story clapboard log and frame structure situated on Lot #2 of the 1826 plat. Built between 1780 and 1820, and presently in deteriorated condition, it has a double-shouldered stone chimney on the east end and has a shed roof addition on the rear. On the west side is a late 19th century frame addition with a brick chimney attached by Wheeler Gentry, a former owner. The strongest historical association is with Dr. Parker, a physician and previous owner.

(2) Continuing east and attached to the brick row houses on the west side of Lot #1 on the 1820 plat, is a log house which has been covered with clapboard. Possibly the earliest of the three row buildings, it could date to the 1780's, or as late as 1820. The clapboard is over very large regular square logs. The window openings of this three-bay structure are original.

(3) Marshall Tavern was constructed ca. 1840 as an addition to an inn that stands next door. The house is five-bay, of brick laid in common bond, with parapet walls at each end with an original chimney at the west end. The structure originally had three doors, allowing guests to enter some rooms directly from the outside without having to pass through other spaces.

"Two rooms connected the Tavern next door, but the doors between were closed up, probably when the buildings were separated legally if not in fact."<sup>1</sup>

Interior woodwork is plain, in the Greek Revival style, and appears to be original except for the fireplace in the left front room, which was altered and replaced. The direction of the staircase may have been reversed, and therefore may not be original.

<sup>1</sup>Bettye Lee Mastin, "Family Renovates Old Inn Addition," (Lexington) Herald and Leader, April 28, 1979, p. C-3.

# 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 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1900-                | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS          | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY               | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT    | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)     |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION              |   |  |

## SPECIFIC DATES

## BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Athens Historic District comprises the core of an early 19th century village near Lexington. Located on the Athens-Boonesboro Road--the main thoroughfare through Athens--the structures include two log buildings dating possibly to the late 18th century, two brick row houses of early 19th century construction, and two Victorian commercial buildings that are the only remaining early business establishments in the community.

Located ten miles southeast of Lexington, Athens is situated in the historically rich Bluegrass. Approximately eight miles to the southeast was Boonesborough, established in 1775 by Daniel Boone, and the second fortification in Kentucky. The first white settlement in the immediate vicinity was Daniel Boone's Station, built on the east fork of Hickman and Boone's Creeks and dating to 1783.

It was also in 1783 that Cross Plains was founded one-half mile west of Boone's Station on the crossing of two buffalo traces which later became Athens-Boonesboro Road and Cleveland Pike (Dripps, p. 4).

By 1825 the growth of Cross Plains prompted the residents to petition the General Assembly to charter the town, renaming it Athens (*Ibid.*, p. 4). A plat was drawn up, but was not strictly adhered to. Commercial buildings were integrated among residences, and were largely concentrated within a four-block area on either side of the Athens-Boonesboro Road. In the early part of the 19th century the community contained several manufacturing industries, including a woolen factory and a bagging and rope factory. By 1860 they had all burned, however, and were not rebuilt. Kentucky historian Robert Peter details the reason for the lack of remaining commercial buildings in downtown Athens:

Several destructive fires for so small a place have visited Athens during the course of its eventful career. In 1853-54, all the business houses on the south side of Main street, west of the Cleveland pike, were swept away at a single blaze. The buildings consumed were the Bledsoe Hotel, Harvey Nelson's dry goods store, John Donnally's store (brick), a shoemaker's-shop and a few dwellings. They were never rebuilt. The loss entailed was rather heavy for a small country village, and one from which it did not readily recover. The present business of the place consists of two dry goods stores, three grocery stores, one drug store, one blacksmith shop, two wagon-shops, a post office, one hotel, etc., etc." (Peter, pp. 491-492).

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"A Plat of the Town of Athens." 1826.

Atlas of Bourbon, Clark, Fayette, Jessamine, and Woodford Counties, Kentucky. Philadelphia: D. G. Beers & Co., 1877.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 3 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Ford Quadrangle

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A | 1,6 | 7 3,1 | 3,0,0 | 4,2 0,3 | 3 00 | 6 1,0

B | 1,6 | 7 3,1 | 2,3,0 | 4,2 0,3 | 2 30 | 6 2,0

ZONE EASTING 600 NORTHING 200

ZONE EASTING 540 NORTHING 230

C | 1,6 | 7 3,1 | 2,0,0 | 4,2 0,3 | 6 0,0

D | 1,6 | 7 3,1 | 2,3,0 | 4,2 0,3 | 5 4,0

E | 1,6 | 7 3,1 | 3,2,0 | 4,2 0,3 | 3 20 | 4 9,0

F | 1,6 | 7 3,1 | 3,6,0 | 4,2 0,3 | 3 60 | 5 2,0

G | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

H | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Gloria Mills, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Kentucky Heritage Commission

DATE

December, 1978

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

*Donna C. Hopkins*

TITLE

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

July 6, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*Carl Stull*

DATE

10-11-79

ATTEST

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Beth Grosvenor*

DATE

10/10/79

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

|                  |             |
|------------------|-------------|
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |             |
| RECEIVED         | JUL 16 1979 |
| DATE ENTERED     | OCT 11 1979 |

Athens Historic District

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

4

PAGE

2

Owner's Name and Address

Mrs. Grace Barker --Flannery's Store  
Route #7  
Lexington, Kentucky 40502

Mrs. Melvin Stivers & heirs--log house  
Athens-Boonesboro Pike, Route #10  
Lexington, Kentucky 40502

Mr. John R. Owens --Dr. Parker House  
116 Chinoe Road  
Lexington, Kentucky 40502

Dr. & Mrs. Carl H. Scott ---Marshall Tavern, Aubrey Tavern & Rose's Store  
2130 Nicholasville Road  
Lexington, Kentucky 40503

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

|                  |             |
|------------------|-------------|
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |             |
| RECEIVED         | JUL 16 1979 |
| DATE ENTERED     | OCT 11 1979 |

Athens Historic District  
**CONTINUATION SHEET**

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 2

(4) Aubrey Inn, on the northwest corner of Main (Athens-Boonesboro Road) and Cleveland Road is located on what was originally Lot #1 of the 1826 plat. The building, which could date to as early as 1790 or as late as 1820, is perfectly symmetrical, three bay, with a central entrance. The brick work is laid in Flemish bond. The jamband trim on the windows appear to be original with six-pane sashes. Known as the "brick tavern," the structure has been partially Greek Revivalized, with Greek pediments added over the original flat arches above the windows. There is Italianate trim over the door which probably dates from the 1860s or '70s.

The kitchen ell was probably added shortly after the construction of the house, but the addition to the kitchen wing and the porch were of much later vintage. The board and batten shed in the back of the house was built around 1890.

(5) Directly across the street from the "brick tavern house" on the southwest corner of the Athens-Boonesboro Road is Flannery's Store. Built around 1880, the frame structure is in the Italianate style with original carpenter-work brackets on the facade. Much of the interior is still intact, including walnut handplaned showcases, shelves and cabinets with fine carpenter's brackets in the same style as the exterior.

(6) Rose's Store is located on the southeast corner of Athens-Boonesboro Road and Cleveland Pike, which was originally Lot #24 on the 1826 plat. It is a very simple commercial building dating from the mid-19th century. The balcony and roof do not appear to be original. The two-story brick structure was moved from its original location further east on Athens-Boonesboro Road to its present site in the late 1800s.

The boundaries were drawn to include the historic houses on the north side of the main street, the commercial structures, and the section of the Athens-Boonesboro Road that falls in between, which has functioned as the main thoroughfare through the community since its founding.

Outside the district are modest frame buildings, some no doubt log, intermingled with contemporary housing (see sketch map). On the northeastern corner of Democrat Street and Athens-Boonesboro Road is a vacant lot, and further west being residential. To the west of Flannery's (#5) are also modest residences, mostly frame. There is a large vacant lot at the northeastern corner of Cleveland Road and Athens-Boonesboro Road, with residences further east, as is the case to the west of Rose's Grocery (#6).

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

|                  |             |
|------------------|-------------|
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |             |
| RECEIVED         | JUL 16 1979 |
| DATE ENTERED     | OCT 11 1979 |

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Athens Historic District  
**CONTINUATION SHEET**

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

There are presently only three remaining commercial structures in Athens-- a contemporary building on the west end of town, and two of 19th century construction that are within the district. The early buildings include Rose's store, dating to the mid-1800s and moved from the original site further west on the main street in the late 1800s, and Flannery's, built in the late 19th century.

Representing the early log period of construction is the Dr. Parker House, built between 1780 and 1820, and the house to its immediate east attached to the brick row houses which could possibly pre-date the Parker House. Both structures have been clapboarded. The Parker House has retained the original large stone chimney on the east end of the house. The row houses, not uncommon in the Bluegrass, are the only early brick structures remaining in the town. The corner row house has added social significance in being one of the community's early 19th century taverns.

Thus, the two log structures, the brick row houses, and the Victorian commercial buildings together reflect the town's early character. There are no intrusions in the district, which has remained virtually unchanged since the late 19th century.

The closeness of I-75 interchange and the possibility of increased traffic flow along the Athens-Boonesboro Road leading to Boonesboro Park does present a potential threat to Athens and to the district. All of the structures within the nominated area were built close to the two-lane road.

The upgrading of several of the older nominated buildings within the district was assisted by the recent purchase of the rowhouses and Rose's Grocery by Dr. Carl Scott. Marshall Tavern was restored in 1978 and the restoration of the other brick residence is now in progress. The present owners plan the continued use of the grocery for commercial purposes. The Dr. Parker House is presently under new ownership and being restored.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

|                  |             |
|------------------|-------------|
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |             |
| RECEIVED         | JUL 16 1979 |
| DATE ENTERED     | OCT 11 1979 |

Athens Historic District

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

Collins, Richard and Collins, Lewis. History of Kentucky. Vol. II. Frankfort, Ky: Kentucky Historical Society, 1966 (originally published 1874), pp. 170-171.

Dripps, Nona. Planning Study for Athens, Kentucky. n. p., 1976.

Peter, Robert. History of Fayette County, Kentucky. Ed. by William Henry Perrin. Chicago: O. L. Baskin & Co., 1882, pp. 484-489.

Kentucky State Gazetteer & Business Directory for 1879-80. Louisville: R. L. Polk & Co.; & A. C. Danser, 1879.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

|                  |             |
|------------------|-------------|
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |             |
| RECEIVED         | 10-10-79    |
| DATE ENTERED     | OCT 11 1979 |

Athens Historic District  
Fayette County, Kentucky

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

10 PAGE 2

ADDENDUM

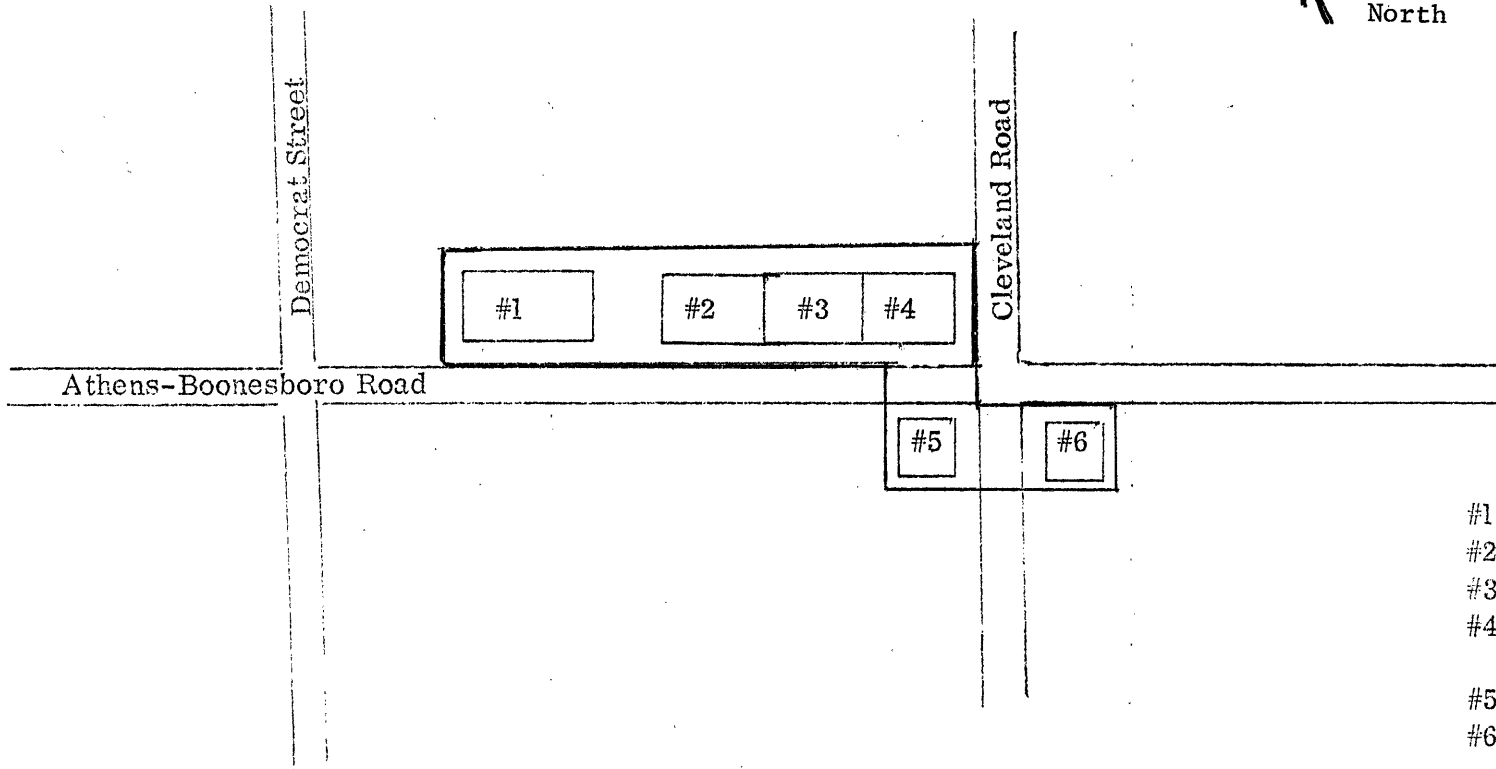
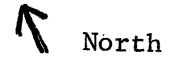
Verbal Boundary Description

(Refer to Diagram 1)

Beginning at the southwest corner of the district, the boundary extends from the north side of the Athens-Boonesboro Pike approximately 20' from the southwest corner of the Parker House northward approximately 150'; then turns eastward approximately 300' until it meets the Cleveland Road. The line then runs along the west side of Cleveland Road, crossing to the north side of the Athens-Boonesboro Road and extending approximately 100'. The line turns southward for approximately 100' to the rear of Roses's store, and then turns in a southwesterly direction for approximately 200'. The line then turns northward running just to the west of Flannery's Store and extends approximately 150' to the south side of the Athens-Boonesboro Road. The boundary then turns westward approximately 250' running along the south side of the road to the point of beginning.

ATHENS HISTORIC DISTRICT

Not to scale



- #1 Dr. Parker House
- #2 Log House
- #3 Brick Row House
- #4 Brick Row House  
(Marshall Tavern)
- #5 Flannery's Store
- #6 Rose's Store

Athens Historic District  
Fayette County, KY

Gloria Mills

JUL 11 1979

District outlined in red.

Not to scale.

Diagram 1

JUL 16 1979