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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Little Rock-Jackstown Road Rural Historic District  
historic name

other names/site number See table in Description

2. Location

Along Little Rock-Jackstown and Soper Roads  
street & number NA  not for publication

Little Rock  
city or town  vicinity

Kentucky code KY county Bourbon code 017 zip code 40311  
state code county code zip code

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

*David L. Morgan*  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office 02-13-04

State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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):

*Edson H. Beall*  
Signature of the Keeper

3/31/04  
Date of Action

Little Rock-Jackstown Rd. RHD

Bourbon Co., KY

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
54	38	buildings
4	0	sites
91	6	structures
0	0	objects
149	44	Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed  
in the National Register

1

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling  
Agriculture

Current Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling  
Agriculture

7. Description

Architectural Classification  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Federal  
Classic Revival  
Gothic Revival, Neo-Colonial

Materials  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone, Wood Post, Poured Concrete  
walls Weatherboard, Brick, Metal, Vinyl  
Stone  
roof Asphalt, Metal, Stone, Concrete  
other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Name of Property

County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- Criteria A, B, C, D with checkboxes and descriptions.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- Criteria A through G with checkboxes and descriptions.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Agriculture, Social History, Religious History

Period of Significance

1795-1950

Significant Dates

- 1797, 1810, ca. 1900

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Barton W. Stone

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- Checkboxes for preliminary determination, National Register, National Historic Landmark, Historic American Buildings Survey, and Historic American Engineering Record.

Primary location of additional data:

- Checkboxes for State Historic Preservation Office, Other State agency, Federal agency, Local government, University, and Other.

Name of repository:

Little Rock-Jackstown Rd. RHD

Bourbon Co., KY

Name of Property

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2,400 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

UTM grid boxes for Zone, Easting, Northing with labels 1, 2, 3, 4 and 'North Middletown Quad'.

See continuation sheet 10-3

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

Form fields for name (John S. Lewis), organization (Lewis Raymer Consulting), date (December 1, 2003), street & number (Box 6750), telephone (607-256-8624), city or town (Ithaca), state (NY), zip code (14851).

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

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

Form fields for property owner name, street & number, telephone, city or town, state, zip code.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Little Rock-Jackstown Rd.  
Rural Historic District  
Bourbon County, KY

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## Narrative Description of the Overall District

The proposed district lies on the edge of the Inner Bluegrass region and on the eastern border of Bourbon County along Hinkston Creek. The Little Rock-Jackstown Road forms the spine of the district, with a number of historic farms lying on each side of the road through most of its four-mile length. The district contains most of the farms between the small village of Little Rock and the junction of the Little Rock-Jackstown Road and Paris-Jackstown Road near the tiny hamlet of Jackstown. Only a few areas are excluded either for being non-contributing or undocumented, or having intervening non-contributing areas. The landscape consists of rolling hills rising 75 to 100 feet, which are cut by the Hinkston tributaries of Clear and Brush Creeks. The soil is excellent for both grazing and crops and the land continues to be fully developed and utilized farmland except for a few small steep wooded areas along Hinkston Creek. Two side roads, one going east and one west, roughly divide the Little Rock-Jackstown Road into thirds. In the southern half of the district, the road follows the course of Brush Creek crossing it several times before it joins with Clear Creek near their confluence with Hinkston.

The current road appears to follow the path of the nineteenth-century route between the small town of Little Rock and hamlet of Jackstown with only a few minor deviations. This road was probably first established during or shortly after the settlement period. An 1861 map of Bourbon County indicates that a road was firmly established along the current route by that time. This section of Hinkston Creek has fairly high banks, and Jackstown was the site of an early mill and important crossing into Nicholas County. Until the middle of the twentieth century, it had several businesses including a couple of stores and a dance hall. Now the only buildings left are a few residences. At the beginning of the nineteenth century, Little Rock was overshadowed by the nearby hamlet of The Levy that sat on the Hinkston tributary of Boone Creek. By the time of the Civil War, Little Rock grew into a small town and the most important commercial center between Millersburg and North Middletown. It had several churches, a bank, school and several commercial establishes. Its fortunes declined in the economic changes of the post-WWII era and now it is essentially a hamlet of approximately twenty residences. The proposed district currently reflects the prosperous, early-twentieth-century rural landscape that existed between two small, but then viable, commercial hamlets.

The primary crops in the proposed district are corn, hay, tobacco and soybeans. Tobacco is on its way to becoming an uneconomical crop and probably very little will be grown in the district within ten years. A significant portion of the land is also left in permanent pasture for beef cattle. The development of the transportation network and

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economy of Bourbon County caused this area to become relatively isolated. As a result, this district was a domain of relatively prosperous and viable middle class farms. It has also still escaped the rampant development that is currently occurring in most of the Bluegrass.

Many of the farms have been handed down through several generations of the same families. Relatively little subdivision of farms has occurred. Most of the farms are still operated in their historic configuration of main dwelling, nearby stock barn, sheds, outbuildings and a few isolated tobacco barns spread throughout the fields. Extensive dry-rock fences still exist, marking historic field boundaries. Throughout the entire district, the historic spatial relationship between the nineteenth-century farmsteads, property boundaries and natural features is clearly visible. There are a few isolated houses, but most dwellings are associated with a collection of barns and outbuildings.

Two historic farms anchor the north end of the district. On a small hill in the northwest corner is the 94-acre Gillespie Farm. While it sits on the site of an older nineteenth-century, the current farm complex consists of a 1903 dwelling with a 1906 stock barn and an excellent and extensive array of farm outbuildings developed primarily during the first half of the twentieth century. Across the road on another rise is the late-eighteenth-century Barton W. Stone house. It was expanded in the early-nineteenth century with Federal and Greek Revival elements, and received further minor expansions and renovations in the twentieth century. Nevertheless, it retains the character of a mid-nineteenth century house. The surrounding 48-acre farm contains an unusual two-bay stock barn and a mix of nineteenth and twentieth-century outbuildings, some of which are in bad repair.

On the next rise to the east next to Hinkston Creek is the circa-1800, one-and-a-half-story, saddlebag Wright House. It has received numerous modernizations over the years including vinyl siding, but it retains its historic mass and presence. The original farm has been divided and aside from the original drive, some trees and cistern, the rest of the farmstead is post-WWII. This property also contains a significant woodlot along the banks of Hinkston Creek

South from the Barton Stone House along the east side of the road is the 215-acre, old Letton or Bow-Neck Farm. Only the foundations of the nineteenth-century house (BB-215) remain and no new dwelling has been put in its place. Extensive outbuildings remain, however, revealing an interesting layout of an early-twentieth-century farm. This included a stock barn, a stone-fenced barnyard, garage and isolated tobacco barns. This property adjoins the Wright farm and has woodlots along Hinkston Creek.

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The next farm south on the east side of the road is an older farm divided into two properties. The 110-acre northern parcel has a non-contributing dwelling plus two contributing tobacco barns. The southern 47-acre parcel has a contributing mid-twentieth century dwelling built on an old house foundation. This parcel also has an unusual early-twentieth-century, small, hillside stock barn as well as some contributing tobacco barns and dry rock fences. Brush Creek forms the back border of this parcel. Collectively these two parcels reveal the pattern of an earlier farm.

Continuing south, the Little Rock-Jackstown Road intersects with Roseberry Road, which forms the bottom of a T traveling in a southwest direction. Within a few hundred feet, the Little Rock-Jackstown Road makes a 90-degree turn to the east. Straddling this intersection and extending eastward along the north side of the Little Rock-Jackstown Road is the old Hopkins Farm, which has also been divided into several parcels. Very close to the road in the northwest corner of the intersection is an early-twentieth-century, one-and-a-half story house that was probably built as the secondary dwelling on the farm. Prior to World War II it was expanded and received an L-shaped veranda, which has Spanish-influenced poured concrete columns and also encloses a cistern. A very substantial tobacco barn and large rock pools stand in the southwest corner of the intersection. Built circa 1900, this barn contains a heavy raised wooden floor used to warehouse tobacco from nearby farms before it was sent to market in Paris. Just to the east of the bend in the road is a relatively large quarry. Much of stone used in nearby fences and building foundations was probably quarried here.

To the east of the quarry, the main dwelling of the original Hopkins farm sits high on a hill facing south. The front façade of this two-story house has been changed, but the location and mass of the dwelling reveal the historic pattern of land development during the nineteenth century. Many of the nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century outbuildings remain, including a root cellar, dairy and tobacco barns, garage and sheds. This farm also retains some of its dry rock fences, which help show the historic spatial relationship of the older farm.

The Little Rock-Jackstown Road travels east-west for nearly 1000 yards before turning south once again. Approximately 300 yards south of the bend, the road crosses Brush Creek. Along the creek, a small dirt road exits the main road due north and leads to two farms that are wedged between Hinkston Creek, Brush Creek, and the old Hopkins Farm. They appear to have been a single farm that was divided in the mid-twentieth century. The southern 71-acre parcel contains a mid-twentieth-century stone house, an early-twentieth-century tobacco barn plus additional outbuildings. The

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northern 36-acre parcel has the old tenant house that has been modernized into a main dwelling plus a circa-1980 barn and farmstead.

About 100 yards south of the dirt road is the intersection of the Little Rock-Jackstown Road with Soper Road, which travels in an eastward direction. On a one-acre lot in the northeast corner is a 1960s rural complex including a brick range house, garage and sheds. A small circa-1940 house with asbestos siding sits in the southeast corner. East of these houses along Soper road are several mid-century tobacco barns which show the traditional agricultural practices of the area. A farm with late-nineteenth-century, two-story, T-house that has lost its rear wing and with a farm complex that includes rock wall and an unusual square barn anchors the middle section of the eastern boundary of the proposed district.

The 244-acre, Kenneth and Jean Soper farm sits south of the big bend in the Little Rock-Jackstown Road and west of the Soper Road intersection. The current principal dwelling is a modest, 1946 one-and-a-half-story, neo-colonial with the appropriate outbuildings of the period. This farmstead stands near the road just to the north of where Brush Creek crosses the road. The most historically interesting aspects of this farm are the isolated barns including one with a ceramic tile silo and stone vent. Several sections of rock fence add to the historic character of this farm.

To the west of the Kenneth and Jean Soper farm is the 132-acre Bryan Farm. It lies about a half-mile off the main road and is accessed by a dirt farm road. The antebellum, two-story, T-shaped, frame dwelling with Greek Revival and Italianate styling was probably built by Robert A. Hopkins and served as the main house of a large farm. Although it is currently unoccupied, it remains in a salvageable condition. The farm still contains an early-twentieth-century barn and other outbuildings as well as extensive rock fences.

Next to the road in front of the Bryan Farm is a circa-1800 log house that was covered with excellently crafted, Flemish bond brick veneer during the nineteenth century. This property also contains the old Letton family cemetery that is fully enclosed with a rock fence.

Snow Hill lies in the southwest corner of the district. This 254-acre farm contains the transitional Federal-Creek Revival house possibly started in 1809 and completed circa 1840 by Henry Wilson, one of the first settlers in Kentucky. The farm still contains large amounts of its nineteenth-century dry rock fence, stone retaining pools and some unidentified rock foundations as well as an old barn. Collectively, they reveal spatial



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relationships of the nineteenth-century farmstead. A new ranch house and a recent metal pole barn complete the major structures on the farm.

South of Soper Road east of the Little Rock-Jackstown Road is the Harold and Linda Soper Farm. The current main house is a modern brick ranch house. It also has some old barns and rock fence. In a small section across the road is a nineteenth-century tenant house and old spring. The two properties further south on the east side of the road are non-contributing, but contain only two buildings.

The J. W. and Lida Soper Farm anchors the southeast corner of the district. It contains the most historically significant and complete array of late-nineteenth and early-twentieth-century agricultural buildings and structures. The approximately four miles of dry rock fence and a couple of water gates creates a dramatic frame for the farm. It contains an unusual nineteenth-century stock barn with external sheep stalls built into the foundation as well as another early stock barn, tobacco barns, and springhouses. The early-twentieth-century farmhouse completes the historic picture and a limited number of new improvements conserve much of the farm's historic integrity.

Despite the description of all the buildings, the overall visual impression of the proposed district is mainly open farmland. On the tops of the rolling hills in the eastern section, the viewer can see the farmsteads laid out on other hilltops across the fields and streams. In the western section, the farms are not as visible from a distance, but appear more as stately rows of arms laid out along the old road. The layout of the roads, open landscape, fence rows, rock walls, the spatial relationship between houses and the extensive collection of farm buildings, provide one of the best insights into the late-nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century agricultural landscapes in the entire Bluegrass. Truly this is a district worthy of recognition by listing on the National Register, and for all the preservation efforts that can be marshaled in saving this agricultural landscape.

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Little Rock-Jackstown Road  
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Map #	Contributing Name	Date	Current Foundation	Current Wall	Current Roof
1.01	Y Gillespie House	1912	stone	weatherboard/aluminum	tin shingles
1.02	Y Cistern	c. 1915	poured concrete	poured concrete	poured concrete
1.03	Y Meathouse	early-20th C.	wood post	vinyl	standing seam metal
1.04	N Shop	c. 1985	concrete block	vinyl	standing seam metal
1.05	N Equipment Shed	c. 1980	wood post	corrugated metal	corrugated metal
1.06	N Loading Shoot	c. 1985	stone	stone	not applicable
1.07	Y Tobacco Barn	1919	stone	verticle board	asphalt shingle
1.08	Y Stable	c. 1920	stone	verticle board	standing seam metal
1.09	Y Corn Crib	early-20th C.	poured concrete	metal	metal
1.10	N Tobacco Barn	early-20th C.	wood post	verticle board	standing seam metal
1.11	Y Rock Fence	early-20th C.	stone	stone	not applicable
1.12	Y Rock Fence	early-20th C.	stone	stone	not applicable
2.01	Y Barton Stone House	c. 1790	stone	weatherboard/vinyle	standing seam metal
2.02	Y Root Cellar	19th C.	stone	stone	stone
2.03	Y Well	19th C.	stone	stone	metal
2.04	Y Chicken House	c. 1930	stone/block	board and batten	standing seam metal
2.05	Y Shed	early-20th C.	wood post	board and batten	standing seam metal
2.06	Y Garage	c. 1930	wood post	verticle board	standing seam metal
2.07	N Garage	c. 1970	wood post	weatherboard	standing seam metal

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Map #	Contributing Name	Date	Current Foundation	Current Wall	Current Roof
2.08	Y Corn Crib	c. 1930	wood post	verticle board	standing seam metal
2.09	Y Privy	early-20th	wood post	verticle board	wood shingle
2.10	N Shed	c. 1977	wood post	verticle board	standing seam metal
2.11	N Shed	mid-20th C.	wood post	verticle board	standing seam metal
2.12	Y Wasson Graveyard	19th C.	not applicable	not applicable	not applicable
2.13	Y Tobacco Barn	c. 1945	poured concrete	verticle board	standing seam metal
2.14	Y Stock Barn	c. 1930	stone	verticle board	standing seam metal
2.15	Y Rock Fence	19th C.	stone	stone	not applicable
3.01	Y House	early-19th C.	stone	vinyl	asphalt shingle
3.02	Y Cistern	early-20th C.	poured concrete	poured concrete	poured concrete
3.03	N Shed	mid-20th C.	wood post	verticle board	standing seam metal
3.04	N Garage	Late-20th C.	concrete block	standing seam metal	standing seam metal
3.05	Y Barn	mid-20th C.	wood post	verticle board	standing seam metal
3.06	Y Garage	mid-20th C.	wood post	verticle board	standing seam metal
4.01	Y Garage	c. 1930	poured concrete	board and batten	asphalt shingle
4.02	Y Spring Vent	19th C.	stone	stone	not applicable
4.03	Y Water Gap	early-20th C.	stone	stone	not applicable
4.04	Y House Foundation	19th C.	stone	not applicable	not applicable
4.05	Y Stock Barn	early-20th C.	stone	verticle board	standing seam metal

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Map #	Contributing Name	Date	Current Foundation	Current Wall	Current Roof
4.06	Y Tobacco Barn	c. 1945	wood post	verticle board	standing seam metal
4.07	Y Tobacco Barn	c. 1950	wood post	verticle board	asphalt shingle
4.08	Y Old Road Bed	19th C.	ground	not applicable	not applicable
4.09	Y Old Orchard	19th C.	not applicable	not applicable	not applicable
4.10	Y Water Gap	early-20th C.	stone	stone	not applicable
4.11	Y Rock Fence	19th C.	stone	stone	not applicable
4.12	Y Stone Fence	early-20th C.	stone	stone	not applicable
4.13	Y Stone Fence	19th C.	stone	stone	not applicable
4.14	Y Stone Fence	19th C.	stone	stone	not applicable
4.15	Y Stone Fence	19th C.	stone	stone	not applicable
4.16	Y Stone Fence	19th C.	stone	stone	not applicable
4.17	Y Stone Fence	19th C.	stone	stone	not applicable
4.18	Y Stone Fence	19th C.	stone	stone	not applicable
5.01	N House	c. 1980	concrete block	wood & brick veneer	asphalt shingle
5.02	N Foundation	c. 1990	concrete block	not applicable	not applicable
5.03	N Tobacco Barn	late-20th C	concrete block	verticle board	standing seam metal
6.01	N Click House	c. 1953	concrete block	vinyl	asphalt shingle
6.02	Y Cistern	early-20th C.	poured concrete	poured concrete	poured concrete
6.03	Y Stock Barn	early-20th C.	poured concrete	poured concrete	poured concrete

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Map #	Contributing Name	Date	Current Foundation	Current Wall	Current Roof
6.04	Y Cistern	mid-20th C.	poured concrete	poured concrete	poured concrete
6.05	N Stable	late-20th C.	unknown	verticle board	asphalt shingle
6.06	Y Tobacco Barn	c. 1950	poured concrete	verticle board	standing seam metal
6.07	Y Cistern	early-20th C.	stone	stone	poured concrete
6.08	Y Chicken House	c. 1950	poured concrete	verticle board	standing seam metal
6.09	Y Corn Crib	c. 1950	concrete block	verticle board	asphalt shingle
6.10	Y Rock Fence	19th C.	stone	stone	not applicable
6.11	Y Rock Fence	19th C.	stone	stone	not applicable
7.01	Y House	early-20th C.	stone	asbestos shingles	asphalt shingle
7.02	Y Meat House	c. 1940	wood post	tin	standing seam metal
7.03	Y Tobacco	c. 1910	stone/poured concrete	verticle board	standing seam metal
7.04	Y Stone Vent	late-19th C.	stone	stone	not applicable
7.05	Y Stone Bridge	19th C	stone	stone	not applicable
7.06	Y Rock Wall	19th C	stone	stone	not applicable
7.07	Y Water Gap	19th C	stone	stone	not applicable
8.01	Y Hopkins House	mid-19th C.	stone	vinyl	asphalt shingle
8.02	Y Well	19th C.	stone	stone	poured concrete
8.03	Y Cistern	early-20th C.	stone	stone	poured concrete
8.04	N Garage	c. 1985	stone	vinyl	standing seam metal

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Map #	Contributing Name	Date	Current Foundation	Current Wall	Current Roof
8.05	Y Meathouse	mid-20th C.	stone/brick	weatherboard	asphalt shingle
8.06	Y Foundation	19th C.	stone	not applicable	not applicable
8.07	Y Ice House	19th C.	stone	board and batten	standing seam metal
8.08	N Blacksmith Shop	mid-20th C.	poured concrete	gone	gone
8.09	Y Tobacco Barn	c. 1940	wood post	verticle board	standing seam metal
8.10	Y Stock Barn	c. 1920	stone/block	verticle board	standing seam metal
8.11	Y Cistern	c. 1920	stone/block	stone	stone
8.12	Y Rock Wall	19th C.	stone/block	stone	not applicable
8.13	Y Rock Quarry	19th C.	stone/block	stone	not applicable
9.01	Y House	c. 1930	poured concrete	vinyl	asphalt shingle
9.02	N Barn	c. 1990	poured concrete	verticle board	standing seam metal
9.03	N Corn Crib	c. 1980	poured concrete	verticle board	standing seam metal
9.04	N Machine Shed	c. 1980	wood post	verticle board	rolled asphalt
10.01	Y House	c. 1950	poured concrete	stone	asphalt shingle
10.02	N garage	c. 1980	poured concrete	vinyl	asphalt shingle
10.03	N Shed	c. 1960	wood post	board and batten	asphalt shingle
10.04	N Shed	c. 1960	wood post	board and batten	asphalt shingle
10.05	N Stock Barn	c. 1970	wood post	verticle board	standing seam metal
10.06	Y Barn	c. 1930	stone	verticle board	standing seam metal

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Map #	Contributing Name	Date	Current Foundation	Current Wall	Current Roof
10.07	Y Rock Wall	early 20th C.	stone	stone	not applicable
10.08	Y Rock Wall	early 20th C.	stone	stone	not applicable
10.09	Y Rock Seep	early 20th C.	stone	stone	not applicable
10.10	Y Rock Wall	early 20th C.	stone	stone	not applicable
11.01	Y House	late-19th C.	stone	vinyl	asphalt shingle
11.02	Y Garage	c. 1930	stone	weatherboard	asphalt shingle
11.03	N Loading Shoot	mid-20th C	stone	stone/block	not applicable
11.04	Y Root Cellar	late-19th C.	stone	stone	stone/ground
11.05	Y Meat House	late-19th C.	stone	weatherboard	standing seam metal
11.06	Y Stock Barn	c. 1900	stone	verticle board	standing seam metal
11.07	N Grain Bin	c. 1990	poured concrete	metal	metal
11.08	Y Rock Wall	early 20-th C.	stone	stone	not applicable
11.09	Y Rock Wall	early 20-th C.	stone	stone	not applicable
12.01	Y House	c. 1950	concrete block	asbestos	asphalt shingle
12.02	Y Tobacco Barn	early-20th C	stone	vertical board	standing seam metal
12.03	N Tobacco Barn	late-20th C	wood post	vertical board	standing seam metal
12.04	Y Tobacco Barn	mid-20th C	wood post	vertical board	standing seam metal
13.01	N House	c. 1960	poured concrete	brick veneer	asphalt shingle
13.02	N Garage	c. 1960	concrete block	concrete block	asphalt shingle

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Map #	Contributing Name	Date	Current Foundation	Current Wall	Current Roof
13.03	N Shed	c. 1960	wood post	verticle board	asphalt shingle
13.04	N Shed	c. 1980	wood post	verticle board	asphalt shingle
14.01	Y House	1946	concrete block	vinyl	asphalt shingle
14.02	Y Garage	c. 1946	wood post	board and batten	asphalt shingle
14.03	N Garage	c. 1990	poured concrete	standing seam metal	standing seam metal
14.04	Y Shed	c. 1950	wood post	vertical board	asphalt shingle
14.05	N Run-In Shed	c. 1950	wood post	vertical board	standing seam metal
14.06	Y Rock Wall	early-20th C	stone	stone	not applicable
14.07	Y Rock Wall	early-20th C	stone	stone	not applicable
14.08	Y Barn	moved 1937	stone	vertical board	standing seam metal
14.09	Y Silo	moved 1937	poured concrete	cermamic tile	wood
14.10	Y Stone Vent	c. 1940	stone	stone	not applicable
14.11	Y Stone Vent	early 20th C.	stone	stone	not applicable
14.12	Y Rock Wall	early-20th C	stone	stone	not applicable
14.13	N Tobacco Barn	late-20th C.	poured concrete	vertical board	standing seam metal
15.01	N House	c. 1980	concrete block	brick veneer	asphalt shingle
15.02	Y Barn	c. 1940	stone	vertical board	standing seam metal
15.03	N Loading Shoot	c. 1975	stone	stone	not applicable
15.04	Y Rock Wall	early-20th C	stone	stone	not applicable



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Map #	Contributing Name	Date	Current Foundation	Current Wall	Current Roof
15.05	Y Rock Wall	early-20th C	stone	stone	not applicable
15.06	N Shed	c. 1995	poured concrete	standing seam metal	standing seam metal
15.07	Y Barn	early-20th	stone	vertical board	standing seam metal
15.08	Y House	19th C.	stone	weatherboard	standing seam metal
15.09	Y Spring House	19th C.	stone	stone	stone
16.01	Y House	early-19th C.	stone	brick veneer	asphalt shingle
16.02	N Tobacco Barn	late-20th C.	poured concrete	vertical board	standing seam metal
16.03	Y Letton Cemetary	19th C.	not applicable	not applicable	not applicable
16.04	Y Rock Wall	19th C.	stone	stone	not applicable
16.05	Y Rock Wall	19th C.	stone	stone	not applicable
16.06	Y Rock Wall	19th C.	stone	stone	not applicable
16.07	Y Rock Wall	19th C.	stone	stone	not applicable
17.01	N Trailer	c. 1990	concrete block	metal	metal
18.01	N House	c. 1995	concrete block	log	standing seam metal
19.01	Y House	1918	stone	vinyl	asphalt shingle
19.02	Y Tobacco Barn	c. 1900	stone/poured concrete	vertical board	standing seam metal
19.03	Y Stock Barn	1920	stone	vertical board	standing seam metal
19.04	Y Spring House	19th C.	stone	stone	stone
19.05	Y Barn	19th C.	stone	vertical board	standing seam metal

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Map #	Contributing Name	Date	Current Foundation	Current Wall	Current Roof
19.06	Y House Foundation	19th C.	stone	gone	gone
19.07	Y Spring House	19th C.	stone	gone	gone
19.08	N House	2001	poured concrete	vinyl	asphalt shingle
19.09	N Shed	2003	poured concrete	standing seam metal	standing seam metal
19.10	Y Water Gate	19th C.	stone	stone	not applicable
19.11	Y Stone Fence	19th C.	stone	stone	not applicable
19.12	Y Stone Fence	19th C.	stone	stone	not applicable
19.13	Y Stone Fence	19th C.	stone	stone	not applicable
19.14	Y Stone Fence	19th C.	stone	stone	not applicable
19.15	Y Stone Fence	19th C.	stone	stone	not applicable
19.16	Y Stone Fence	19th C.	stone	stone	not applicable
19.17	Y Stone Fence	19th C.	stone	stone	not applicable
19.18	Y Stone Fence	19th C.	stone	stone	not applicable
19.19	Y Stone Fence	19th C.	stone	stone	not applicable
19.20	Y Stone Fence	19th C.	stone	stone	not applicable
19.21	Y Stone Fence	19th C.	stone	stone	not applicable
19.22	Y Stone Fence	19th C.	stone	stone	not applicable
19.23	Y Stone Fence	19th C.	stone	stone	not applicable
19.24	Y Stone Fence	19th C.	stone	stone	not applicable

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Map #	Contributing Name	Date	Current Foundation	Current Wall	Current Roof
19.25	Y Stone Fence	19th C.	stone	stone	not applicable
19.26	Y Water Gate	early-20th C.	stone	stone	not applicable
20.01	Y Snow Hill	c. 1840	concrete block	brick	standing seam metal
20.02	Y Cistern	early-20th C.	unknown	unknown	poured concrete
20.03	N House	2000	poured concrete	vinyl	asphalt shingle
20.04	Y Stock Barn	c. 1930	poured concrete	vehicle board	standing seam metal
20.05	N Stock Barn	1997	poured concrete	vehicle board	standing seam metal
20.06	N Corn Crib	1999	poured concrete	vehicle board	standing seam metal
20.07	Y Stone Vent	19th C.	stone	stone	not applicable
20.08	Y Rock Wall	19th C.	stone	stone	not applicable
20.09	Y Rock Wall	19th C.	stone	stone	not applicable
20.10	Y Rock Wall	19th C.	stone	stone	not applicable
20.11	Y Rock Wall	19th C.	stone	stone	not applicable
20.12	Y Rock Wall	19th C.	stone	stone	not applicable
20.13	Y Rock Wall	19th C.	stone	stone	not applicable
20.14	Y Rock Wall	19th C.	stone	stone	not applicable
21.01	Y Robert Hopkins	c. 1850	stone	weatherboard	standing seam metal
21.02	Y Meat House	early-20th C.	stone	vertical board	standing seam metal
21.03	Y Chicken Coop	mid-20th C.	wood post	vertical board	standing seam metal

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Map #	Contributing Name	Date	Current Foundation	Current Wall	Current Roof
21.04	Y Corn Crib	c. 1960	stone	vertical board	standing seam metal
21.05	Y Barn	early-20th C.	stone	vertical board	standing seam metal
21.06	Y Foundation	19th C.	stone	gone	gone

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## Summary of Significance

The Little Rock-Jackstown Road Rural Historic District in eastern Bourbon County, Kentucky meets National Register eligibility criterion A and is significant within the historic context of "Agricultural and Social History in Bourbon County and the Inner Bluegrass of Kentucky, 1800-1950." One site within the proposed district, the Barton W. Stone House, also meets criterion B, as Stone was one of the founding fathers of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and is a religious leader of national significance.

Archival and field research discovered that the proposed "Little Rock-Jackstown Road Rural Historic District" illustrates the history of agriculture in Bourbon County particularly well, especially in conjunction with the other rural historic districts in the county. Because the proposed district contains an excellent array of historic resources from late-nineteenth and early-twentieth-century middle-class farms, it helps complete the overall picture of the history of agriculture in Bourbon County. The similarities and differences—in both the agricultural statistics and existing historic architectural resources—between the proposed district and all the other rural historic districts in Bourbon County clearly show that proximity to Paris and major transportation routes had a more significant impact on the size and value of farms than soil fertility or topography. Because the proposed district preserves such an important piece of the overall history of the county, it is very worthy of recognition and conservation efforts. The district has the added benefit of having a number of barns known to date to the nineteenth century and the turn-of-the-twentieth century, which can serve as references for the study of barns in other areas of the Bluegrass.

Being on the very edge of the Inner Bluegrass, the proposed district has rich limestone pastures and arable cropland that was as good or nearly as good as other historically wealthy districts in the county. Unlike "Cooper's Run," "Stoner Creek" and "Cane Ridge" historic districts, the landscape along the Little Rock-Jackstown Road did not have any of the top tier of the Bourbon County gentry. Instead, the proposed district shows the historic transformation of a rural Bluegrass district dominated by third to second tier gentry into an area of middle-class farms during the early- and mid-twentieth centuries. Thus, this district's integrity, in conjunction with other nearby districts, gives the viewer a better picture of the rich Inner Bluegrass historic landscape as it looked before the rapid development of the post-WWII era.

The landscape along the Little Rock-Jackstown Road is also different from "The Pocket Rural Historic District" which is nearly adjacent to the eastern boundary of the proposed district. The land changes significantly from the rich, although rolling, farmland of the Inner Bluegrass in the proposed district to the much less fertile and broken hills of the Eden Shale Region found in The Pocket. Although apparent, the differences in the

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agricultural economies and architectural legacy of the two districts are not as dramatic as the differences between these areas and the wealthier historic districts in Bourbon County. (See figures 3 and 4 below.) The better farmland along the Little Rock-Jackstown Road let farmers focus more attention on arable crops than in The Pocket. Because they had less arable land, farmers in The Pocket focused more of their efforts on raising livestock. Likewise, the average value of a farm along the Little Rock-Jackstown Road was higher than the farm values in The Pocket, but the difference was not that great considering the relative size of farms in the two districts.

Although the agricultural census records are not available for individual farms past 1880, the physical evidence in the county's rural historic districts indicate that land use patterns established in the nineteenth century continued and intensified within the context of the twentieth-century political economy. Again, the proposed district preserves an important part of the overall picture by showing in particular how dwellings, stock barns, other agricultural buildings and the layout of agricultural fields evolved on middle-class farms within the rich Bluegrass land of central Kentucky.

The Barton W. Stone House still retains much of its historical integrity dating to the turn-of-the-nineteenth-century, the period in which Stone resided in the house. The farm appears to retain a similar size and shape to when Stone owned it. In addition, there is a nearby dwelling dating to the same period, and the surrounding landscape is still open farmland. Thus the surrounding area preserves some of the character of Stone's tenure in Bourbon County and provides a window into an important period in his life.

### Research Design

In the spring of 2000, a reconnaissance survey of rural Bourbon County identified the Little Rock-Jackstown Road as an area that potentially qualified as a rural historic district. The reconnaissance survey evaluated the potential significance of the buildings and landscapes that could be seen from the road. The primary criteria of evaluation were the level of historic integrity to nineteenth and early-twentieth century and the particular landscape's ability to tell part of the overall history of agriculture in Bourbon County. Along with See Road and KY 537, which are located in "The Pocket Rural Historic District," the Little Rock-Jackstown Road was identified as having the highest level of potential significance of any area in the county that was not yet on the National Register (Lewis 2000, p.10).

Of all the counties in the Bluegrass, Bourbon County is particularly blessed with individual farms, small pockets and larger areas that could potentially qualify for listing

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on the National Register. The Little Rock-Jackstown Road stood out for several reasons. It was a relatively large area. It appeared to have a high level of integrity and significance for middle-class farm economy of the early-twentieth century. The survey noted that the landscape along the road had extensive stone walls showing the historic layout of fields of several farms as well as excellent dwellings with little modification, and an extensive array of outbuildings. It also observed a very moderate amount of non-contributing buildings, giving the area a potentially high level of integrity. Since heretofore, the rural historic districts in Bourbon County had focused on areas dominated by the large country estates of the elites, the survey indicated that a high priority should be placed on nominating an area that represented the history of middle-class farming. There are certainly other areas in the county that could represent this history, but none appeared at the time of the survey to have as high a level of integrity over as large an area.

The research area also contains the late-eighteenth century dwelling of Barton W. Stone, a religious leader of national significance. Given that Stone was an important national figure and is much revered by local historians, it made research into his physical connections to the landscape more attractive.

Thus, the obvious themes on which to focus research were:

- Agricultural and rural history of Bourbon County and the Inner Bluegrass; and
- The early religious history of Bourbon County and the foundation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

The general agricultural history of the Inner Bluegrass region is well documented, in secondary sources, the "Reconnaissance Survey of Historic Buildings and Landscapes in the Rural Districts of Bourbon County, Kentucky" completed for the Kentucky Heritage Council and in other nominations of Rural National Register districts in the Bluegrass. This history can be summarized as follows. It begins with a short period of settlement during the late-eighteenth century quickly followed by a short period when the sons of wealthy east coast gentry come to dominate the landscape. During the first half of the nineteenth-century, the new Bluegrass gentry build large farms with big houses, some which were quite grand. The source of their agricultural wealth the breeding of livestock for export as blooded stock plus some hemp and grain. In addition many poured capital acquired from commerce, industry and slavery into their grand estates. Tenants and farmers with smaller holdings lived among the gentry, but were depended upon and beholden to the economic and political patronage of the elites. After the Civil War, the agricultural economy of the Bluegrass entered into a slow decline, as the commercial focus of the Corn Belt or livestock/feed grain based agricultural economy

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moved to the Midwest. The average size of farms became smaller and the value of the agricultural production fell. In the late-1880s, the burley tobacco boom in the Bluegrass dramatically shifted the agricultural strategy away from more diversified farming to one based on a single cash crop supplemented by beef, sheep or hog production at various times. This led to the ubiquitous tobacco barn springing up across the landscape and the increase of tenant farms until World War II. At the same time, the image of central Kentucky as the perfect home for the gentleman farmer remained strong, and men of industry and commerce continued to bring in large sums of outside capital for investment in grand estates. This dovetailed nicely with the rise of the thoroughbred industry during the twentieth century and engendered the large horse farms, which characterize many parts of the Bluegrass today.

This study attempted to set the proposed district within the context of this overall history by using census records, historic maps, and secondary sources to establish an historic profile of the landowners along Cane Ridge Road and their farms during the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. The goal was to compare these profiles with similar information in other nominations, including the "Historic and Architectural Resources of North West Woodford County, Kentucky," the "Big Sink," "Clifton-McCracken" and "Pisgah" Rural Historic Districts in Woodford County; the "Boone Creek" and "Middle Reaches of Boone Creek" Rural Historic Districts in Clark and Fayette Counties and "Cooper's Run," "Stoner Creek," "Cane Ridge," and "The Pocket" Rural Historic Districts in Bourbon County.

Using agricultural census returns of individual farms is an excellent way to obtain a good comparison of the socio-economic profile between districts. Although the incomplete nature of nineteenth-century records sometimes makes it difficult to find information on all the farm operators in Bourbon county identified on the 1861 Hewitt and 1877 DeBeers maps, enough do appear for the rural historic districts to acquire a good comparison. Generally, the wealthiest, most stable landowners are the ones who appear on both the maps and the census records. For this reason, statistical data that can be compiled on individual farms tends to be weighted toward the wealthier landowners. One the other hand, the wealthiest owners in any particular district were the ones who dominated the landscape. Through their construction, farm management, and trade relationships with their neighbors, the wealthier landowners gave any area its social, economic and architectural character. Thus, using the available census to compare the average farm in various areas, even though it may be skewed toward wealthier farms, allows us to identify their different socio-economic profiles.



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This nomination compares the profile of the proposed district with the nearby Cane Ridge and The Pocket Rural Historic Districts as well as with Bourbon County and the State of Kentucky. These two districts are used because both their nearby location and significant differences reveal interesting insights into the relationships between soil type, settlement patterns and transportation development. Only the 1880 census is available for comparison because that was the only one calculated for previous nominations of Cane Ridge and The Pocket. The 1860 census is also used to compare the proposed district with the average farm in Bourbon County and Kentucky. Census returns for individual farms are not available after 1880. The comparisons are listed in the four figures below.

Figure 1

Average Size of Farm and Crops Raised in 1860

	Farm Value	Improved Acres	Bushels of Corn	Bushels of Wheat	Bushels of Oats
Little Rock-Jackstown	\$14,670	343	2,108	903	120
Cane Ridge	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
The Pocket	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Bourbon Co.	\$20,759	282	2,172	467	292
Kentucky	\$3,486	91	766	88	55

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Figure 2

Average Number of Livestock per Farm in 1860

	Horses	Mules and Asses	Cows and Other Cattle	Sheep	Swine
Little Rock-Jackstown	14	15	17	10	25
Cane Ridge	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
The Pocket	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Bourbon Co.	12	14	27	27	41
Kentucky	4	1	9	11	18

Figure 3

Average Size of Farm and Crops Raised in 1880

	Farm Value	Tilled Acres	Acres Permanent Pasture	Bushels of Corn	Bushels of Wheat
Little Rock-Jackstown	\$8,611	79	109	1,594	463
Cane Ridge	\$34,360	76	390	2,489	804
The Pocket	\$6,171	32	101	623	172
Bourbon Co.	\$20,759	282	2,172	1,218	397
Kentucky	\$1,798	50	14	438	68

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Figure 4

Average Number of Livestock per Farm in 1880

	Horses	Mules and Asses	Cows and Other Cattle	Sheep	Swine
Little Rock-Jackstown	5.9	0.9	5.4	0*	5
Cane Ridge	4.2	2.9	66.1	385	23
The Pocket	4.2	4.7	10.0	29	10
Bourbon Co.	5.5	2.2	17.4	56	22
Kentucky	2.2	0.7	4.9	6	13

\*According to the returns, two farms along the Little Rock-Jackstown Road did raise sheep and produce wool. The actively bought and sold sheep in the previous year, but did not own any on June 1, 1880, the exact day of the census.

The surrounding sections of eastern Bourbon County contain quite a few pockets of rural landscape that potentially qualify for listing on the National Register of Historical Places. Nearby farms almost adjacent to this district have dwellings and agricultural buildings dating to the nineteenth century and appear to have a relatively high level of historical integrity. Likewise, the nearby hamlet of Little Rock has nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century buildings relevant to the history of small commercial centers in the Bluegrass Region. This project attempted to research all of the potentially qualifying nearby buildings that the project budget allowed for. Those eliminated from consideration often appeared to have historic themes that were different from those at the core of the proposed district. In addition, considering these resources could have made the proposed district too large and unwieldy. Surveying and researching the properties along the Little Rock-Jackstown Road could be adequately completed with the available resources and it was believed that this area would make an excellent and coherent rural historic district.

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The research and characteristics of the proposed district are analyzed within a large context, entitled "Agricultural and Social History in Bourbon County and the Inner Bluegrass, 1790-1950," which is composed of two themes in this nomination. They are:

- Early settlement and development patterns 1790-1865; and
- The landscape and agricultural strategies of the lower gentry and middle class farmers, 1865-1950.

The Barton W. Stone House is analyzed in the following terms:

- Insight into the life of a major religious leader; and
- The relationship between early settlement patterns of eastern Bourbon County, and its early religious history.

### **Agricultural and Social History, Bourbon County & the Inner Bluegrass, 1790-1950**

The rolling landscape along the road between Little Rock and Jackstown is similar to the rest of eastern Bourbon County. Its soil is excellent for pasturing livestock. Likewise, its hilltops and bottomlands are very suitable for arable crops. As a result, the land in the proposed district had as much appeal to the early American settlers as other parts of the Inner Bluegrass. This area had the added attraction of being next to the seasonally navigable Hinkston Creek. In the early 1780s, Henry F. Wilson, an active participant in the building of Fort Boonesboro and an early resident of Bryan Station, bought 5,000 acres in and around the proposed district from an earlier land claimant. According to some accounts, he established a pioneer fort about 100 yards from the present house Snow Hill (BB-220). He quickly subdivided his land, and a number of other settlers established homesteads, once the fear of Shawnee incursion subsided in the early 1790s.

Unlike similar rich and landscapes with abundant water in Bourbon County however, top tier of Bluegrass gentry did not dominate this area. Wilson helped established character of the area. First he sold much of his 5,000 acres of land to acquire the resources needed to establish the second successful salt works in Kentucky. This placed much of the land into smaller landholdings. Second, he did not develop the lavish country estate found in environs closer to Paris, the county seat. He did not build Snow Hill until late in his life. By 1860, his son had a sizeable estate of 750 acres worth \$36,252, more than

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the average Bourbon County farm, but less than half the value of Locust Grove or some of the other Buckner and Clay farms in eastern Bourbon County.

Wilson's house, Snow Hill, reflects this third tier gentry status. It is a large brick, two-story, L-shaped, circa-1840 transitional Federal-Greek Revival. Wilson probably used the same builders of Butler and DeJarnett that constructed the grand antebellum houses of Locust Grove (BB-282) on the Cane Ridge Road (Cane Ridge Rural Historic District), and to Auvergne (BB-307) on Winchester Pike (Stoner Creek Rural Historic District). For this reason, Snow Hill exhibits some similarities, but it does not reflect the obvious desire to have one of the most ostentatious houses in the county, as do Auvergne or Locust Grove. Nor does it display the same level of ostentation as a Glenwood (BB-285), another large antebellum house on Cane Ridge. The owner of Snow Hill was of the same social class, but did not aspire to the same level of display.

Other antebellum farms along the Little Rock-Jackstown Road were in the middle or lower half of the average Bourbon County farm, although by state standards they could be considered wealthy. According to the 1860 census, Robert A. Hopkins has a 430-acre farm worth \$21,500 and raised an average amount of livestock and less than average amount of crops. His still-existent house reflects this status. It is a rather plain, two-story, T-shaped frame house with Greek Revival-Italianate styling, relatively few and rather small windows, and no portico. Thus it is a substantial house of a successful farmer, but in no way does it try to emulate the country houses of the Bourbon County gentry.

Other documented antebellum houses, both existing and gone, along or adjacent to the Little Rock-Jackstown Road, also reflect the primarily middle-class status of the area. One is the Barton Stone House, a circa-1790 one-story single-pen log cabin with a two-story log addition. The others are modest one-and-a-half-story log or frame houses. Four still exist in the proposed district and retain much of their nineteenth-century integrity. Collectively these nineteenth century dwellings, from the Barton Stone House to Snow Hill, confirm the census record and show that this district was more in the domain of middle-class to lower-upper-class landowners and farmers.

How did this rich farmland become a domain of farmers of more modest means when two to three miles away on Cane Ridge, the landscape was dominated by some of the wealthiest gentry in the entire Bluegrass? The likely answers tell us much about the settlement patterns of the Bluegrass and how the region was organized during the nineteenth century. While the quality and fertility of the land and the availability of water

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were important, they were not the only factors in determining the desirability of any particular farm. Access to transportation and to political, social and economic centers were more important.

Hinkston Creek did not prove to be the boon to transportation and economic development that the first settlers originally might have thought. Like other large creeks in the area, slack water during the dry seasons was always a problem. More important, the building of numerous mills and dams severely limited the usefulness of the Hinkston for transportation. Furthermore, the Maysville Road, arguably the most important overland transportation route west of the Allegheny Mountains prior to the War of 1812, went through the heart of Bourbon County, including the county seat of Paris and second largest town of Millersburg. Thus any farmer in Bourbon County near to the Maysville Road had as good access to excellent local markets and to Lexington, "the Athens of the West," as any farmer outside of Fayette County had. This easy access to markets did not apply to the area around Little Rock. Prior to the Civil War, carrying goods to market in Paris or Millersburg was nearly a full-day journey.

Except in Bourbon County, the wealthy elite in the Bluegrass tended to locate their grandest houses in the county seats of Versailles, Nicholasville, Danville, or Georgetown. For some unknown reason, the wealthiest Bourbon County gentry generally built their principal residence on grand country estates. Even here, however, they preferred to be within the same neighborhoods and closer to Paris. Again the Little Rock area did not fit these conditions. The large country estates in eastern Bourbon County were within six to eight miles of Paris, depending upon the road. Farms within the proposed district were ten to fourteen miles by road from the county seat. Even Carlisle, the seat of Nicholas County, was much closer, but it did not provide nearly the same economic markets or social status of Paris.

Certainly the fact that Henry Wilson chose to subdivide his 5,000 acres into smaller tracts contributed to this area becoming the domain of mid-sized farms. More important was the relative isolation of the area. Although the soil in the district was fertile, the more desirable locations, for those with the means to acquire it, had equally good or better soil and lay closer to Paris.

Because this corner of Bourbon County was relatively remote from the county seat, it needed to develop into its own small commercial center. At first, Levy (now called Plum), which stood about one mile east of Little Rock and along the banks of Boone Creek, was the first significant hamlet in the surrounding district. By the antebellum period, the commercial center of the district moved west to Little Rock, called Flat Rock at the time. It was a small but active commercial center with a post office, hotel,

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several stores and shops, school, churches, Masonic Lodge and its own economic and social elites.

Residing just outside of town along the road to the even smaller commercial hamlet of Jackstown, the antebellum farmers within the proposed district were among the economic and social leaders of Little Rock precinct. They were not without their own prominent individuals. For example, John Desha, brother of a Kentucky Governor, lived just to the east of Little Rock and the proposed district along the Cane Ridge Turnpike. Within the context of the entire county, however, the largest landowners between Little Rock and Jackstown were the second and third tier of the Bluegrass gentry, representing generally middle-class farmers. The remaining antebellum dwellings in the proposed district clearly reflect this socio-economic profile.

This same economic trend toward middle class dominance continued and intensified after the Civil War and into the twentieth century. Most of the families who had acquired the land before the war, the Sopers, Hopkins, Wilsons Lyttons (Lettons) and Wassons, continued to own and farm the same land, but the landholdings became smaller with divisions among the heirs. According to the 1880 census, the size and value of the farms decreased by nearly a half. Even though the land was best suited for grazing, livestock production fell by about two-thirds while grain production only fell a third. (Compare Figures 1 and 2 with 3 and 4.) This reflected a stronger commitment to a safer strategy of general farming. Livestock production could provide more profits, but required more capital and entailed greater financial risks. Farmers first raised the number of livestock and amount to serve their own consumption needs with some surplus to sell. The large amounts of corn and wheat could easily be sold to the bigger livestock producers nearby.

When the burley boom hit, they, like so many others in Kentucky, jumped in with both feet and began raising large amounts of tobacco. Accompanying the tobacco boom in Bourbon County was a significant reduction in the production of corn, and especially wheat and barley, with an increase in the number of small beef operations. All the while, transportation to Paris and its railroad-connected markets, or its social society, remained relatively more difficult for this district. Coupled with the long-standing ownership of the entrenched families, this reinforced the middle-class status of the district.

Because individual agricultural returns are not available after 1880, it is impossible to statistically verify these trends. Nevertheless, the remaining built environment—the houses, barns, and other outbuildings in the proposed district—indicate that such trends did indeed occur here. Some of the evidence comes from the several remaining small

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stock barns dating from circa 1900 that were designed to house small numbers of cows, horses, sheep and hogs under one roof. Almost always located near the main house, these remaining stock barns show that the coupling the major cash crop of burley tobacco with small amounts of grain, hay and a variety of farm animals, continued to be a viable strategy well into the middle of the twentieth century.

Likewise, the dwellings that date to the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries confirm the middle-class status of the district. The two main farm dwellings from the late-nineteenth century are remarkably similar, consisting of two-story, frame T-house. Houses from the early-twentieth century are a little more varied, having either bungalow or late-Victorian styling. None are particularly unusual or remarkable architecturally. Collectively they well represent the type of middle-class houses found in the Kentucky Bluegrass.

Just because they were middle-class farmers with medium-sized farms, however, does not mean they farmed without tenants. There are also a couple of dwellings, one each from the nineteenth, early-twentieth, and mid-twentieth centuries. They, coupled with the agricultural buildings and miles of rock fence, help complete the overall picture of the district's history from the end of Reconstruction to World War II.

The proposed district also has several remarkable barns worthy of note. One is the nineteenth-century stock barn on the J. W. Soper farm. This barn has an unusual stone foundation with external built-in sheep pens reminiscent of Yorkshire, England. Bourbon was by far the biggest sheep-producing county in Kentucky throughout the nineteenth century and until the Second World War. Barns with features for housing sheep can still be found in Bourbon County, and none this substantial or with this particular configuration has been documented. Thus, this particular barn is worthy of further study and maybe important to understanding the agricultural history of the entire county.

A second example is a large tobacco barn that stands at the corner of the Little Rock-Jackstown and Roseberry Roads. Instead of having a center drive like almost all tobacco barns in Kentucky, this one has a heavily constructed wood platform in the middle bay. This served as a reinforce floor for the warehousing of cured tobacco that had already been stripped and tied in to hands. This unusual barn construction reflected a local market niche caused by this district's relative isolation. A similar barn exists in the nearby "The Pocket Rural Historic District," but the location of the first barn at the corner of Roseberry and the Little Rock-Jackstown Roads probably gave it a competitive advantage. This writer knows of no other similar barns remaining in central Kentucky.



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One local farmer, James Robinson, related family stories about marketing tobacco before the 1930s. According to him, it took a full day to transport tobacco by wagon from this area to the tobacco warehouses in Paris. Farmers then spent the night in hotels and took turns guarding their tobacco before selling it at auction the next morning and returning home late in the evening. Some entrepreneurs took advantage of this district's relative isolation and inconvenience to farmers by becoming middlemen. They bought and stored tobacco at local specialized barns, and then resold it in Paris.

Another example is an unusual square stock barn with a stone foundation, hayloft, and stalls on the Robinson and Soper farms. As in the case of round barns, there are a few examples of square barns in Bourbon County, but they are relatively rare. Little is known about the architectural evolution of square barns and they also merit further study to show how Bourbon County's farmers innovated as well as followed trends.

The proposed district also has a nice of array of other barns, silos, rock fences, water gaps, vents, sheds and other structures that perfectly illustrate the rural landscape of middle-class farms during the early-twentieth century. In particular, the several small stock barns on some of the smaller farms are good examples of the design needed to house small numbers of a variety of different types of farm animals. Although fewer in number than the ubiquitous tobacco barn, the relatively high number of stock barns with hay lofts in this district is additional proof that general farming remained viable in this district longer than in the more wealthy districts of Bourbon County.

That a couple of these stock barns have barnyards enclosed by dry rock fence only enhances their historic integrity and interest. Indeed, the more than seven miles of dry rock fence is another particularly important feature that captures the historic character of the district. Stone water gates in some of the fences, which allow water to pass through the fence but not livestock, add further character to this area. There are several dry stone vents or U-shaped retaining pools, used to create watering holes around springs or seeps. Most of the dwellings still have stone root cellars, cisterns and old sheds. Several have meat houses.

For the Inner Bluegrass, this district has relatively few existing silos, old or new. This further reflects the relative lack of interest in commercial livestock production by farmers in this area. Most farms appear to have continued using haylofts, smaller grain bins for holding winter stock feed, or simply needed to feed fewer cattle. There one early ceramic tile silo near a larger stock/tobacco barn on one of the larger farms. Surviving tile silos are somewhat unusual in Bourbon County. Again, the lack of a large number of more modern silos, contrasted against the existence of early silos and grain bins, enhances the historic appearance of the district.

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The 1920s and '30s brought economic decline to the farm economy throughout the country. In the Bluegrass Region, this decline was present but much less severe than in most other parts of the country. The economic hardships experienced by farmers within the proposed district were similar to those felt by the rest of Bourbon County. The impact of the Depression was somewhat different here than in the county's other rural historic districts. In the more posh rural areas closer to Paris, as in the "Stoner Creek" or "Cane Ridge" historic districts, wealthy people from both inside and outside the county, who had earned fortunes in commerce or industry, continued to invest significant capital into large elegant country estates. The farms along the Little Rock-Jackstown Road were too remote to afford their owners such luxuries. Instead, they continued to be operated as profitably as possible in a depressed economy by most of the same families that had been there for generations, while the land continued to decline in value.

On the other hand, the fertility and productivity of the land remained excellent. This gave farmers in the proposed district a significantly different experience than farmers in the Eden Shale soil region just to the east. There, the depressed agricultural economy had a more negative impact because the land was less productive, and the farms smaller. Families sold or abandoned their farms or became poorer. Within the proposed district most of the original families stayed. Though not wealthy, they still retained their middle-class lifestyle.

The decline of value and external interest in the land along the Little Rock-Jackstown Road can be best illustrated by a story told by local farmer, Tommie Gillespie. He said his parents bought the 94-acre farm at the corner of the Little Rock-Jackstown and Jackstown Roads in 1945. They were able to pay for one-half the purchase price from the single-year income for this and another farm of similar size.

Because there was little subdivision of land or the relocating of the principal farmsteads, the construction of new dwellings during the first half of the twentieth century generally falls into three categories. First, landowners constructed a small number of four-room houses for tenants. Second, in a couple of cases the long-time owners built new houses to replace old ones lost to fire. Third, a couple of new houses were built by long-time owners for the next generation remaining on the farm. All the houses built or renovated during this period continued to be somewhat modest in size and ornamentation, and maintained the middle-class character of the district.

Taken as a whole, the proposed district's collection of houses and agricultural buildings older than fifty years preserves much of the historic landscape of middle-class farming within the Inner Bluegrass of central Kentucky. Even more recent construction does not

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compromise that character. Sometimes, it is difficult to distinguish the more recently constructed tobacco barns and small sheds from early ones, judging from the exterior appearance. While raised-seam metal or composition asphalt shingles have replaced wooden shake roofs, and black has become the predominant color of choice for the wood plank boxing, the casual viewer of this district can gain a strong sense of what the historic rural landscape was like prior to World War Two, as well as a good understanding of the history of agriculture in the Bluegrass of Kentucky. This is true because modern construction in the district has been limited to the upgrading of traditional agricultural infrastructure and the building of just three new dwellings.

**Barton W. Stone House**

Barton Warren Stone was a leader of national significance during the Second Great Awakening and in the development of new protestant denominations during the first half of the nineteenth century. After receiving his education and Presbyterian license to preach, Stone (1772-1844) began touring Tennessee and Kentucky, in 1796. He found his most receptive audience in Bourbon County. In 1797 he received an invitation and ordination to become the minister of the Presbyterian churches at Cane Ridge and Concord. Stone also received in his words "an ample salary," and acquired the house and farm that still stand within the district.

First as minister of the Cane Ridge Church and later as a denominational leader, he played an active role in events that would significantly impact the history of American religion and the role of Protestant churches within American social and political life. Even before he received his license to preach, Stone had grave doubts about the Presbyterian Westminster Confession of Faith. In particular, he placed an emphasis on personal salvation and the Bible as the ultimate authority on doctrine, and questioned traditional Calvinistic church teachings like predestination. With such beliefs he was part of the New Light movement that stretched back into the First Great Awakening earlier in the eighteenth century and was being revived in the last decade of the century at the start of the widespread religious fervor of the Second Great Awakening. The Presbyterians accepted him because he was such a promising young preacher even though he did not fully embrace the Westminster Confession.

Coming in successive waves of revival and reform from 1790 to 1830, the Second Great Awakening reflected a general rejection of religious hierarchy and domination of the religious elite located in the east coast. It was a move toward a more democratic, egalitarian form of Christianity that emphasized preaching, emotional worship, communal singing and camp meetings. It also preached the rejection of drunkenness, gambling, fighting and sexual immorality.

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Although particularly strong on the western frontier, this nation-wide revival shifted the base of American religion toward Evangelical Protestantism. The direct results were the rise of the temperance movement and interdenominational missionary societies, and a call for ecumenicalism, which ironically led to the establishment of new denominations. In the long term, the Second Great Awakening helped set the foundation of American middle-class values, the association of wealth, privilege and political power with responsibility, hard work, sobriety, sexual morality and a strong nuclear family.

Stone participated in and was inspired by the revivals that swept through Kentucky around the turn of the nineteenth century. As minister of the Cane Ridge Church, he, along with four other Presbyterian preachers, started a great revival in Bourbon County centered around his church at Cane Ridge in August of 1801. It became the most dramatic event of the Second Great Awakening. An estimated ten to thirty thousand people gathered for a weeklong religious revival. Representing around a quarter of the population of the young state of Kentucky, this was the largest of a wave of revivals that had been sweeping the nation during the decade. Baptist and Methodist preachers also participated. One attendee counted as many as seven ministers preaching at one time with simultaneous singing, praying, crying and shouting creating a noise "like the roar of Niagara."

The immediate impact of the Cane Ridge Revival was the establishment of a new denomination, the Christian Church. A firm believer in ecumenicalism, Stone was particularly inspired by the scene of preachers from various denominations working together at the Cane Ridge Revival. The traditional "Old Light" leaders of the Synod of Kentucky were not as pleased with this ecumenicalism. In 1803, under pressure from the Synod to conform, Stone and five other Presbyterian ministers of similar beliefs formed the Springfield Presbytery in an attempt to make the Presbyterian Church more inclusive and egalitarian. By 1804, they dissolved the new presbytery and started a movement to eliminate denominations and reunite people as "Christians." They advocated dispensing with the title of Reverend, and formal education requirements for preachers. They also wanted to let individual churches choose their own ministers.

By 1810, Stone was kicked out of the Presbyterian Church. Two of his compatriots returned to the fold, while two others moved further on to the Shakers. Only Stone and David Purviance were left from the original group of ministers to foster the new religious movement. Stone was clearly the leader. After leaving the ministry at Cane Ridge, he sold his slaves and turned to farming. Within a year, he moved first to Lexington, then on to Georgetown and finally Illinois. Along the way he wrote numerous books, letters and pamphlets, and worked diligently in Kentucky and Ohio to foster his new movement. In 1832 Stone and his movement united with the followers of Thomas and Alexander

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Campbell, who were working in Virginia, Pennsylvania and Ohio to start a new denomination that is now called the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Today, historians of the Christian Church consider him to be the father of the denomination while others consider him as a very important figure in the Christian Restoration Movement (See Disciples of Christ Historical Society web page, [www.dishistsoc.org](http://www.dishistsoc.org)).

Stone lived in a house in the proposed district from 1797, the time he became the minister at Cane Ridge and Concord, to 1810 when he left Bourbon County after his expulsion from the Presbyterian Church. The house still remains much like the time he lived in it. John or Samuel Fearn probably built the original one-story single-pen log cabin. They were among the earliest settlers in Eastern Bourbon County and constructed a mill along Hinkston Creek at what became Jackstown. After Stone acquired the small farm, he probably had added a two-story log addition. After that, the house received little upgrading during the nineteenth century. Even today, it is essentially unchanged except for the addition of a front porch, weatherboards, a small rear shed addition, indoor plumbing, plaster walls and one side of vinyl siding.

Because the house remains so relatively unchanged, its shape, appearance and location provide interesting insights into the life of Barton Stone. When he accepted the Cane Ridge pulpit at the age of 25, Stone was a young man of promise without many liquid assets. He had received an inheritance at age 16, but had used almost all of it on acquiring a good formal education. At the same time his new position provided him with a good salary. His condition in life made the acquisition of the log dwelling and small farm near Jackstown a logical, appropriate choice.

The house and farm lay about five to six miles by way of the old roads from the Cane Ridge Meeting House. This was close enough to travel relatively easily to church by horseback, but was outside the more affluent Cane Ridge district. Given that this area had already been divided up into smaller holdings, the size of his farm was relatively small. This and the location made the farm both more affordable and appropriate for a man who derived most of his income from professional services. That Stone was able to buy the property indicates that by the 1790s the area along the Little Rock-Jackstown Road was already becoming a less desirable, more affordable area than Cane Ridge or Winchester Road, despite the nearby benefit of Hinkston Creek.

The well-built, single-pen, log house was a typical dwelling of the period for families who were not of the gentry class, but had some resources. Indeed, it had been built for someone who came to Jackstown to build and operate a mill. A single room with a

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sleeping loft was a perfectly acceptable standard of living for most families on the frontier at the time of Kentucky's statehood. Only the gentry, who needed a separate room in their house to meet with clients and the general public, required and desired larger more elaborate homes. The workmanship in the this particular single-pen, log dwelling was of such quality that it not only enabled the house to last more than two hundred years, it provided an adequate status for a young preacher starting out.

Stone probably built the two-story, log addition. As a public figure, he especially needed a parlor to receive visitors. Biographical accounts also indicate that Stone sold his few slaves when he was forced out of the Presbyterian Church in 1810. He probably acquired them after he accepted the pulpit at Cane Ridge and must have required more space to house his growing household. The log addition more than tripled the size of the dwelling and made it a substantial log house that was more appropriate to the rising status of the dynamic, popular Presbyterian minister. Events catapulted Stone onto a bigger stage. He sold his farm within a year of expulsion from the Synod of Kentucky and moved to Lexington.

Charles Wasson, whose family continued to farm in the area for the next several generations, bought the property. Later in 1875, Barton Warren Smith, a namesake of Stone and a grandson of one of the organizers of the Cane Ridge Church, bought the house and 48-acre farm. He was a carpenter by trade and later operated a grocery, a blacksmith and a woodworking shop in Jackstown. The small size of the farm and the weatherboarded log house were as suitable for a tradesman as it had been for an early-nineteenth-century professional. This and Smith's familial and sentimental connection to such a prominent religious leader, created the prefect circumstances for preserving much of the character of the house and farm that existed during Stone's tenure there.

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## Boundary Description

The proposed district includes the following property parcels as recorded in the Bourbon County Valuation Assessor Office.

- 64.00-00-00-002.00
- 64.00-00-00-015.00
- 64.00-00-00-016.00
- 64.00-00-00-017.00
- 64.00-00-00-018.00
- 64.00-00-00-021.00
- 64.00-00-00-024.00
- 64.00-00-00-025.00
- 64.00-00-00-025.01
- 64.00-00-00-025.02
- 64.00-00-00-025.03
- 64.00-00-00-031.00
- 64.00-00-00-032.00
- 64.00-00-00-033.00
- 64.00-00-00-034.00
- 64.00-00-00-035.00
- 64.00-00-00-036.00
- 65.00-00-00-012.00
- 65.00-00-00-013.00
- 65.00-00-00-014.00
- 65.00-00-00-015.00

See attached maps for a graphic outline of the district boundary.

## Boundary Justification

The original research design called for surveying all the properties along the Little Rock-Jackstown and Soper Roads. Potentially qualifying properties in the village of Little Rock and hamlet of Jackstown were initially eliminated because of their

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small town rather than agricultural character. Likewise, some nearby farms north of the Paris-Jackstown Road and east of the district along Roseberry Road and Cane Ridge Road (KY 537) were also not initially considered because their inclusion would have made the district very large and unwieldy, and may have changed the character of the district.

Some properties in the survey area were considered but excluded for a combination of the following basic reasons.

1. Property owners did not allow field research to be conducted on their farms.
2. The properties had a low level of historic integrity.
3. Some potentially qualifying properties had too much non-contributing landscape between them and the proposed district.

All these criteria above were applied to exclude properties in the following specific cases.

Potentially qualifying farms to the north of the intersection of the Little Rock-Jackstown Road and Paris-Jackstown Road and west of the district along the Paris-Jackstown Road were not considered because they lay outside the research area and they appear to be historically more affluent farms outside the middle-class character of the proposed district. The owners of two properties adjacent to the northeast of corner of the proposed district did not grant permission to survey their farms. These farms were not included although they probably qualify under the theme of middle-class farming during the mid-twentieth century.

South of the Gillespie Farm on the west side of the Little Rock-Jackstown Road, one property was not included because it was only open farmland with no buildings and only one structure. The author failed to gain permission to visit two more farms on this side of the road. On one, most of the historic buildings have been significantly altered or torn down and it does not qualify for listing. The potential for qualification of the other is unknown, although little of historic interest can be seen from the road.

There is a turn-of-the-nineteenth-century, weatherboarded log house along Roseberry Road just to the west of the proposed district. It still has a significant

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level of historic integrity, but it was not included because the surrounding outbuildings are modern or do not have much historic significance. There are several non-contributing properties between it and the district. The rest of the area along Roseberry Road contains mostly modern buildings and landscapes.

The Charles and Lawrence Soper House (BB-225), a circa-1803 log house with contributing outbuildings sits along the Soper Road east of the district. It does qualify. It was not included, however because the large farm that has mostly modern non-contributing buildings stands between the Soper House and the proposed district. This farm should probably be attached to "The Pocket Rural Historic District."

South of the J. W. Soper Farm on the east side of Little Rock-Jackstown Road, the circa-1810 Parker House (BB-221) has been torn down. The farm has a trailer, but little else is visible from the road. Thus it was not surveyed or included in the district. Further south, the Hinkle farm does appear to fit in nicely with the theme of the district. It was not included because the owner did not grant permission to survey the farm and several non-contributing properties stand between it and the district. The farm at the corner of the Little Rock-Jackstown Road and Cane Ridge Road appeared to have little historic interest and was not surveyed nor included in the district.

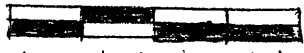
UTM Coordinates  
All points in zone 16





Coordinate #	Easting	Northing
1	756 540	4236 870
2	757 540	4236 100
3	758 420	4234 440
4	759 730	4232 620
5	758 180	4231 800
6	757 050	4231 980
7	757 000	4234 590
8	756 100	4236 740

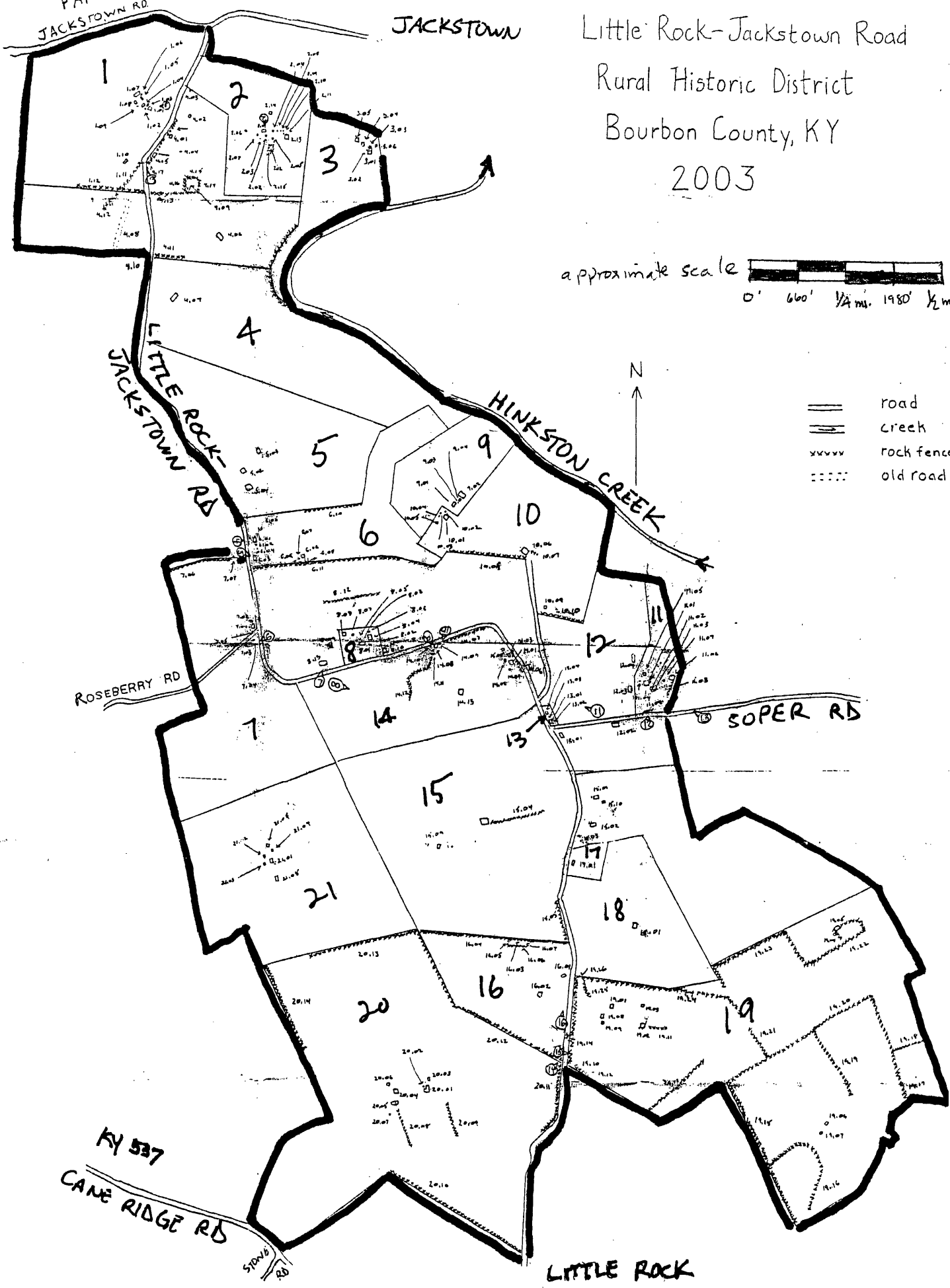
PARIS—  
JACKSTOWN RD.

JACKSTOWN

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2003

approximate scale   
0' 600' 1/4 mi. 1980' 1/2 mi.

-  road
-  creek
-  rock fence
-  old road



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## List of Photographs

The following is the same for all photographs:

Little Rock-Jackstown Road Rural Historic District  
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John Lewis, photographer  
Negatives at the Kentucky Heritage Council, Frankfort, Kentucky

1. Gillespie House, facing west, October 2003
2. Barton W. Stone House, facing south, October 2003
3. Gillespie Farm and Bow Neck Farm Barn, facing north, October 2003
4. Click House, facing east, September 2003
5. Stock Barn, facing southeast, September 2003
6. Interior Warehouse Barn, facing southwest, October 2003
7. Stone Quarry, facing north, October 2003
8. Harold and Linda Soper Farm, facing southeast, October 2003
9. Stone Vent, facing southeast, October 2003
10. Silo and Barn, facing southwest, October 2003
11. Farmland, facing northwest, November 2003
12. Robinson House, facing north, November 2003
13. Robinson Farm, facing northwest, November 2003
14. J. W. and Lida Soper Farm, facing northeast, November 2003
15. Water Gate, facing east, November 2003
16. Little Rock-Jackstown Road, facing north, November 2003