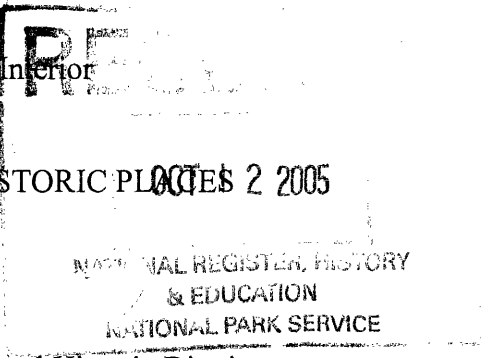


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

1319

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES 2005  
REGISTRATION FORM



1. Name of Property

Historic name Simeon Lewis Rural Historic District  
Other names/site number Nine Mile Tavern, Fern Cliff, Peacock Inn, Seebold House, JF-152

2. Location

Street & number 5215 Bardstown Road not for publication N/A  
City or town Louisville vicinity \_\_\_\_\_  
State Kentucky code KY county Jefferson code 111  
Zip code 40292

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

David L. Morgan Signature of certifying official David L. Morgan, SHPO Date 10-6-05

Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office  
State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_\_\_ meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register Edson H. Ball 11.25.05  
    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): \_\_\_\_\_

[Signature] Signature of Keeper Date of Action

**5. Classification**

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>  2  </u>	<u>      </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>  3  </u>	<u>  1  </u> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>  6  </u>	<u>  1  </u> objects
		<u> 11 </u>	<u>  2 </u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register   0  

Name of Related Multiple Property Listing N/A

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions	Category	Subcategory
	Domestic	Single-dwelling
		Secondary structure
		Hotel
	Agriculture	Agricultural field
		Animal facility
		Agricultural outbuilding
	Landscape	Natural feature
	Transportation	Road-related
	Government	Post Office
Current Functions	Category	Subcategory
	Domestic	Single-dwelling
	Landscape	Natural feature

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification: Greek Revival style

Materials	Foundation	Limestone
	Roof	Asphalt shingle, metal sheeting
	Walls	Brick, frame, clapboard
	Other	Stone

Narrative Description: See Continuation Sheets

### 8. Statement of Significance

#### Applicable National Register Criteria

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.  
 B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.  
 C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.  
 D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

#### Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.  
 B removed from its original location  
 C a birthplace or a grave.  
 D a cemetery.  
 E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.  
 F a commemorative property.

less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance :        Architecture  
Period of Significance        1851 - 1874  
Significant Dates            1851, 1852, 1874  
Significant Person            N/A  
Cultural Affiliation        N/A  
Architect/Builder            Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance: See Continuation Sheets

### 9. Major Bibliographical References See Continuation Sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.  
 previously listed in the National Register  
 previously determined eligible by the National Register  
 designated a National Historic Landmark  
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_  
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

#### Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office  
 Other State agency  
 Federal agency  
 Local government  
 University  
 Other

Name of repository: Jefferson County Historic Preservation and Archives Division, Louisville, KY

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 25.5

UTM References		Jeffersontown Quad	
	Zone	Easting	Northing
A:	16	622170	4225670
B:	16	622050	4225420
C:	16	621840	4225570
D:	16	621950	4225810

### Verbal Boundary Description

The proposed historic district is bounded to the west by Bardstown Road, to the north, south, and east by adjacent residential parcels as described in Jefferson County Deed Books 4288 page 578, 4409 page 177, and 7339 page 506.

### Boundary Justification

The proposed boundaries encompass the farm complex of buildings and the remaining historic farmland associated with Simeon Lewis' tenure. The complex is comprised of resources necessary to portray the day to day activities and lifestyles of the farm's occupants through the tangible collection of buildings, structures and objects from the period of significance, integral to the operation of a farm. The nominated property includes the main house, enslaved African Americans' residence/tenant house, smoke house, corn crib, barn, gateposts, yard, and fallow fields.

## 11. Form Prepared By

Name/title Chambers, Courtney and Donna M. Neary  
Organization Donna M. Neary, Inc. Date July 1, 2005  
Street & number 1435 Willow Ave Telephone 502/456-9488  
City Louisville State Kentucky Zip code 40204

### Property Owner

name Charles Bischoff  
street & number 5215 Bardstown Road  
city or town Louisville state KY zip code 40292

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Simeon Lewis Rural Historic District  
Jefferson County, KY**

**Section 7 Page 1**

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**Description**

The Simeon Lewis Rural Historic District (JF-152) is located in southeastern Jefferson County, on land originally outside the city of Louisville, Kentucky. The Simeon Lewis Rural Historic District is located directly on the route from Louisville to Bardstown, formerly the Stage Road, now called Bardstown Road, the farm's link to the markets of Louisville and Bardstown. The farm stands approximately nine miles east of downtown Louisville.<sup>1</sup> Bardstown Road served as the major toll road in this region of the county during the period of significance, and continues to serve as a primary artery for modern travel.

The rural historic district is situated on 25.5 acres of former farmland and woodland. Approximately 35% of the district is currently wooded. The complex of buildings is clustered near the center of the parcel. The land around the buildings is planted in turf grass. The complex of farm buildings and features which comprise the district are set back approximately 250 feet east of Bardstown Road. The land nearest Bardstown Road is planted with trees. Some appear to have been fairly recently planted to screen views of the complex from Bardstown Road, and to buffer road noises.

An internal roadway forms a straight approach to the main house which faces north, fronting on the internal roadway passing through two pair of stone gateposts. A loop was added to the road, now surfaced with gravel, to provide access to a carport (noncontributing) to the east of the main house. The road is lined with a canopy of mature deciduous trees. Several specimen trees, such as large Magnolia Grandifloras, are planted near the main house. Many volunteer scrub trees are evident to the rear of the main house, and vernacular landscape designs, indicated by flower beds and flowering shrubs, were planted by modern owners. Fern Creek traverses the northeastern portion of the site. The complex is served by both the nearby fresh water source and a transportation route, Bardstown Road.<sup>2</sup>

The complex of buildings follows a pattern of arrangement found throughout the Inner and Outer Bluegrass regions of Kentucky.<sup>3</sup> The site slopes gradually away from the main residence to the north, south, and east. The site continues to fall away from the main house terminating at Fern Creek to the east. Other domestic and agricultural buildings in the complex, the enslaved African Americans' residence, barn, and corncrib are on the slope, slightly below the main house.

Domestic outbuildings, such as the smokehouse, formerly unattached kitchen, and enslaved African Americans' residence, were located to the rear of the main house. Smokehouses and slaves' quarters were in close proximity to the main house for easy accessibility to the back door. Other structures, such as the water pump, sinkhole, and outdoor chimney were placed close to the main residence, out of sight of the family and visitors' entrance on the north façade.

Agricultural outbuildings, such as the barn and corn crib, were typically located further from the domestic buildings and closer to the fields.<sup>4</sup> The Simeon Lewis farmstead differs from this standard design, as the barn and corn crib are sited quite close to the main residence. Both the corn crib and the barn were erected at a lower elevation approximately one hundred feet from the main residence.

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CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Simeon Lewis Rural Historic District  
Jefferson County, KY**

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The main house is situated on a plateau that begins about 50 feet east and 25 feet north of the house and extends south to Bardstown Road. The main house and secondary residence are arranged in a cluster, with the main house clearly dominant in scale and massing. The secondary residence, known as the enslaved African-American residence or tenant house, is approximately 100 feet to the rear and east of the main house. The door of the slave house opens to rear of the main house.

The smokehouse is located in the domestic yard, south of the main house. The smokehouse is the first building approached along the internal roadway to the complex, set back from the dominant line of the main house. This smokehouse may have been in a domestic work building cluster, similar to one discovered at Riverside (JF-13). Although no longer extant, this farm complex would be expected to have included a washhouse, and perhaps other preparatory buildings. No longer in evidence, these buildings would have been necessary in the work of keeping house. Archaeological investigations at Riverside yielded evidence of a washhouse, and perhaps two other foundations, one being a detached kitchen in close proximity to one another behind the main house.<sup>5</sup> The kitchen is contained within the main house at the Simeon Lewis farm. The kitchen was originally a detached building sited fairly close to the main house, as was the situation at Belleview (JF-353). In both cases the space between the two buildings was enclosed to connect the kitchen to the house. Door orientations and traffic flow to the main house were similar at Riverside, Belleview and at Simeon Lewis.

The agricultural buildings, a barn and corn crib remaining in the complex, are sited furthest from the main house, close to the fields. The barn is a dominant structure on the landscape, large in scale. The barn is reached by the internal driveway, traveling in an unbroken straight line from Bardstown Road, approximately 250 feet south, to the entry of the barn. The road turns to the east from the barn toward the drive through corn crib. The buildings are sited side by side, gables facing the domestic yard space. The fallow fields still associated with the property fall away behind the buildings until they terminate at the banks of Fern Creek.

Carved stone steps are sited in front of the main house. Another detached object in the front yard is a squat, stone chimney. Both of these elements provide a sense of past activity in the yard, believed related to the commercial enterprise use of the farm as an inn, post office and blacksmith shop during the period of significance.<sup>6</sup>

A metal carport, erected circa 1970 is located to the east of the main house. The one-story building is divided into three open bays. The flat-roofed building maintains a low profile, but obviously reads as out of context from the period of significance.

The complex of buildings is enclosed by modern stock fencing, comprised of vertical members wrapped around horizontal slats at intersecting points. Fencing of this type marks the domestic complex, running from the entrance posts nearly to the southern boundary of the property, then eastward past the slave house to the beginning of the agricultural outbuildings, then north past the barn, and west back to the entrance. A sinkhole located on the south portion of the property is believed to have functioned as a historic garbage pit. This may have been the original brick pit for construction of the buildings on site, only to be determined by archaeological investigation.

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Simeon Lewis Rural Historic District  
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**Resource Inventory**

**Main House – Built Circa 1830-55 - Contributing**

This house was constructed in several campaigns. Clues to the construction campaigns are seen in the changes in fenestration, varying between six-over-six double-hung sash windows on the earlier section to the rear, and two-over-two double-hung sash from later additions on the main facade. Changing rooflines and odd placement of chimneys also signal additions to this house over time.

The first construction is believed to date circa 1830. A two-story house and one-story detached kitchen are evident at the rear of the existing house, with elements of style found in Greek Revival architecture. These sections are now part of the larger house. The five-bay, two-story main block primary façade is believed to have been constructed by Simeon Lewis circa 1855. Like the original construction, the symmetry of this façade, as well as the jack arches, returned-end gable roof, and end chimneys are common features for houses built in the Greek Revival style. The central door is accented with Greek Revival-styled simple entablature. The one-story open porch spanning the full width of the front elevation is an early-20<sup>th</sup>-century addition. The building sits on a stone foundation, and Flemish bond brick exterior walls are painted white. The roof, which was wood-shingled until the 1950s, is asphalt tiled.

The west façade contains a second entrance covered by a one-story Italianate-styled frame porch. The porch is attached to the house in the ell created by connecting the formerly detached kitchen to the main house. The east side of the building has had alterations. The gable was extended to incorporate bathrooms in the mid-twentieth century. A chimney defines the original termination of the ell addition, and an enclosed one-story porch suggests a once open veranda at this end. The south, rear façade includes an entrance to the basement.

When built, a 15 by 30 foot room spanned the entire front of the house. A wall constructed in the 20<sup>th</sup> century now divides the large room into separate non-communicating rooms. A passageway leads to a hall and stairwell, believed to have been exterior elements (perhaps a gallery porch) enclosed in the latter-19<sup>th</sup> century. A central room contains a side entrance to the house and a passage to a room. Some interior spaces retain original wood-pegged floors. The second story contains several rooms flanking the landing at the top of the stairs. Well-defined limestone walkways and steps lead from the front porch around to either side of the house.

**Smokehouse – Built Circa 1851- Contributing**

The smokehouse, a domestic outbuilding used for curing meat, is located approximately twenty-five feet west of the main residence. Constructed circa 1851, it is recognizable for its square configuration and pyramidal roof. The Simeon Lewis smokehouse is simply designed. The building features ornamental diamond-patterned vents on the rear façade, a trait more typically practiced by wealthier Jefferson County farmers.<sup>7</sup>

The building construction materials are brick, which forms the walls, and timbers that frame the roof. It contains only one door on the east elevation and no windows. Although simple in design, some ornamental detailing is evident in the diamond shape pattern of brick openings repeated on each side. Some of the interior rafters still are embedded with hooks from the meat that once hung there. The floor is unfinished and few interior details are present now, if ever. The building is painted white and the roof is asphalt shingled, though it was covered with wood shingles through the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The modern roof appears to be the only major change in the building. During the twentieth century, owners have used it for other purposes, including storage.

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Simeon Lewis Rural Historic District  
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**Enslaved African-Americans Residence/Tenant House - Built Circa 1851- Contributing**

This small residence sits at the back of the domestic yard, facing the rear of the main house. Its location and construction materials suggest it was built during the antebellum period. The residence is a one-story brick structure with a gable roof and stone foundation. Its brick construction sets it apart from most Kentuckian domestic slave/servant quarters, which were generally constructed of log or frame.<sup>8</sup> Wood rafters are the only other construction material. It is presently a single-pen, end chimney configuration and apparently was at the time it was built. However, the remains of the stone foundation of a second pen, reportedly a frame addition, can be seen on the east side of the building. The building is painted white and has a standing seam metal roof. The fate of Simeon Lewis's slaves following the Civil War is unknown. The building is believed to have served as a secondary residence throughout the period of significance.

**Corn Crib – Built Circa 1851 - Contributing**

As with the other outbuildings, the corn crib's function during the nineteenth century was shaped by the farm's owners' needs. During the Lewis's tenure on the property, the corn crib stored grains for animal feed. During the Williams' ownership of the land, the corn crib may have stored fruit and produce which Bryan Williams supplied to the Fern Creek and Louisville communities through the Jefferson County Fair and the local fruit fair. As crop production continued through the turn of the twentieth century, the building retained an agricultural use.

Located east of the house at an elevation slightly below that of the domestic complex, The logs of the structure form two cribs on each side of the structure. This center-aisle corncrib form was very common throughout the mid-Atlantic and Upland South in the middle to late 19<sup>th</sup> century, whether built of log or frame. Its log siding, however, dates its construction prior to the Civil War, after which most corn cribs were frame construction.<sup>9</sup> Importantly, surviving log examples of corncribs are uncommon in Kentucky, and the stone foundation piers and full dovetail notching are rare in Jefferson County. A new metal roof was added in recent years. The corn crib is currently used for storage purposes.

**Barn – Built Circa 1851- Contributing**

The bank barn is primarily of frame construction on a stone foundation. This barn likely dates from the second half of the nineteenth century.<sup>10</sup> It is sided with vertical wood planks and has double entrance doors on the west side. The interior timbers are pegged together; the floor is wood decking. Multiple built-in levels are located throughout the structure, presumably for hay and feed storage and other equipment uses.

The barn is now used singularly for personal storage. The roof has been replaced with standing seam metal.

The bank barn appears to have had multiple uses since its construction in the 1850s. The timber framing has been decked in various places, creating storage areas at multiple heights. The remnants of horse stalls are at the north end of the building, and each has a window above. The large size of the barn may be explained by Lewis's stagecoach business. Lewis's census records in the 1860s and 1870s indicate the farm housed 35 horses. In Kentucky, nineteenth century barns filled many purposes, and this barn appears to have housed the horses and vehicles. The corn crib held feed, seeds, and harvested crops. Further archaeological research is necessary to determine other agricultural buildings present on the property.<sup>21</sup>



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Simeon Lewis Rural Historic District  
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**Two pair of Limestone Gate posts - Built Circa 1851- Contributing**

A pair of five foot limestone posts mark the entrance to the domestic complex, sited approximately half-way to the house, or 150 feet east of Bardstown Road. A similar pair of posts marks the entrance to the agricultural complex about 50 feet east of the main house. Posts of similar design were placed at farm entrances across the Bluegrass.

**Water Pump – Built Circa 1900 - Contributing**

An abandoned metal water pump is located out the back door from the kitchen, on the southwest side of the house. The house is now connected to sewers at Bardstown Road. The pump would have provided well water on site for both domestic and agricultural needs.

**Stone Chimney – Built Circa 1855 - Contributing**

A stone chimney, approximately four feet high, is located a few feet south and east of the smokehouse. The chimney places an agricultural use within the domestic yard of the complex. The chimney may be related to a blacksmith's operation on site during the period of significance, referenced on an 1870s map.<sup>11</sup>

**Stone Steps – Built Circa 1855 - Contributing**

An L-shaped stone step is located adjacent to the driveway, near the northwest corner of the house. The steps, according to folklore, were used by passengers to climb into stage coaches in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It is unclear if their location has changed over time.

**Carport – Built Circa 1970 – Non-contributing**

This non-contributing pre-fabricated, metal structure is located at the southeastern end of the house. Although modern in materials and construction, vehicle storage is compatible with the uses of the property during the period of significance.

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**Simeon Lewis Rural Historic District  
Jefferson County, KY**

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**Significance**

**Overview**

The Simeon Lewis Rural Historic District is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion C. It is significant within the context “Farm Complexes in Jefferson County, Kentucky, 1850 - 1900.” The district meets criterion C, as a type of construction, a complex of vernacular buildings and outbuildings which are indicative of the physical development, materials and land use of Jefferson County during the period of significance. The Simeon Lewis Rural Historic District’s collection of buildings is important for its ability to convey the day to day activities and lifestyles of the people who lived and worked on the farm during the period of significance.

Rural landscapes reflect the every day activities of the people engaged in the work on the farm. This district evolved its uses of those buildings on site constructed in an earlier era to fit the needs of the owners during the period of significance for the farm, 1851-1900. Further, the extant complex of buildings at the Simeon Lewis Historic District provide a rare example in Jefferson County – that of a collection of farm buildings. These buildings are important for their variety of original functions, or uses and the overall integrity they bring to the district. This farm complex is a tangible reminder of the buildings, structures and objects integral to the operation of this nineteenth century farm.

**Research Design**

This context provides the most recent scholarly research conducted on nineteenth-century farm complexes in Jefferson County, Kentucky. Extensive study of extant farm buildings and structures in Jefferson County was conducted. Derived from the historical development of Jefferson County, the properties studied were rural and agricultural in focus. During the thorough search of extant properties within the county, no properties were located within the period of significance which could be regarded as urban, or city dwellings. The focus of the context, therefore, became rural and agricultural. It became further apparent through study of survey data and consultation with Louisville historic preservation and history professionals, the known properties for comparison had been properly identified. The resulting research should be considered the most current for Jefferson County rural domestic and agricultural complexes within the period of significance.

Comparison properties retained extant outbuildings, dates of construction ranged within the period of significance, and the sites were within rural or agricultural contexts. Field visits were conducted to these comparative sites, and these identified agricultural complexes were examined, and referenced in Table 8.1 in Section 8.

Researchers consulted primary and secondary records at numerous repositories. The local government Archives and County Clerk’s records which yielded deeds, census records, slave schedules, historic maps, agriculture surveys, probate records, wills, topical files, tax maps, and aerial photographs. The Louisville Free Public Library Kentucky collection was consulted for historic newspapers and secondary sources on the history of Fern Creek, Jefferson County, and Kentucky. The historic resource files of the Kentucky Heritage Council, and the Louisville Landmarks survey and site files were reviewed. Researchers combed through property files at both repositories to identify historic properties with extant outbuildings. Importantly, the Louisville Landmarks staff assisted with identifying Jefferson County farms for inclusion in Table 8.1.

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**Simeon Lewis Rural Historic District  
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Simeon Lewis purchased the parcels being nominated in 1851 and 1852. Some buildings and features predate the Lewis occupation, such as a portion of the main house and the kitchen dating to circa 1830. Research concentrated on the period of the Lewis occupation of the site, evaluating the earlier resources within the period of significance.

Kentucky Archaeological Survey (KAS) staff archaeologist conducted a surface reconnaissance to advise Jefferson County historic preservation staff. The reconnaissance produced a high density of artifacts found at the site, including ceramics, window glass, bottle glass and porcelain. Currently, no formal archaeological excavation has been planned or conducted. With further archaeological investigation, KAS archaeologists predict this historic district has the potential to contribute greatly to the understanding of plantation layout and design, outbuilding functions, and the relationship between agricultural and domestic workspaces.<sup>12</sup>

**Historic Context: Farm Complexes in Jefferson County, Kentucky, 1850- 1900**

Farming activities and the buildings and outbuildings necessary to carry out the practice of farming in Kentucky are documented from the earliest days of settlement to the present.<sup>13</sup> Outbuildings were necessary features on the farm, providing locations for occupants of the farm to perform specific jobs or functions – often dirty, odorous, and dealing with fire - away from the houses. Farming during the period 1850-1900 saw the construction of complexes of specialized buildings to provide shelter for the variety of activities carried out on the farms of this era. Farm Complexes during this period evolved from farms during early- and late-settlement era which employed multi-purpose structures, buildings that served serving for storage of livestock, tools, crops and often people.<sup>14</sup>

Two distinct types of outbuildings are found on farms of the second half of the nineteenth century: domestic outbuildings and agricultural outbuildings. These buildings are deliberately arranged on the farm, and this arrangement is seen as the complex. Those buildings which assisted in the category of housework were located near the main house, as these jobs were carried out by the women on the farm. Farm domestic outbuildings facilitated the management of the house and functions necessary to those tasks, including secondary residences for enslaved laborers, and later tenant workers, and buildings for year round food preparation and storage. Domestic buildings found on a Jefferson County farm during the period of significance may include a main house, secondary residences, and slave houses prior to the Civil War and tenant houses following the Civil War. Common building types found on farms in Jefferson County include ice house, spring house, smoke house, priv(ies), detached kitchen, and washhouse. These buildings were placed in close proximity to, but most often to the side or behind the main residence.

Agricultural outbuildings were those that provided work areas, storage, and shelter for farm operations. Buildings found on a farm at the beginning of the period of significance may include stock barns, granaries, stables and chicken houses, built using plans from agricultural magazines.<sup>15</sup> Agricultural buildings commonly found on Jefferson County farms within an agricultural complex from the period of significance included barns; crop storage buildings, including corn cribs; chicken coops; equipment sheds; springhouse; and depending on the farm, a hog pen.<sup>16</sup> These buildings were generally sited close to one another and close to the fields. An exception to that guideline is the chicken coop, primarily managed by women on the farm, was often located within the domestic space. The buildings were arranged for convenience and efficiency, following a

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**Simeon Lewis Rural Historic District  
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pattern established by other farms both in Jefferson County and across the state of Kentucky. The farm's outbuildings were in close proximity to the main residence, the focal point of the farm. Each new generation in the nineteenth century often continued use of existing buildings, in some instances their function changing slightly to meet the owners' changing needs.

During the period of significance, a shift in the use and therefore the construction of outbuildings occurred brought on by the practices of scientific farming. The period 1850 through 1900 saw changes to farm operations through innovations and technologies, such as a move from water powered to steam-powered machines. Those innovations left tangible evidence on farm landscapes in the way of buildings and features. Innovations in the region around the farms also impacted activities on the farm. In Kentucky, including Jefferson County, construction of more reliable macadamized roads began in the 1830s. This innovation led to expanded markets for produce and livestock, and the expansion of stagecoach lines across the Commonwealth.<sup>17</sup> The development of railroads by the 1850s, and the improvement and expansion of rail lines throughout the remainder of the nineteenth century provide reliable, fast transportation of livestock and produce to market.<sup>18</sup>

A movement among developing governmental agencies and farmers for improved methods of livestock and crop productions in Kentucky was seen in the decade from 1850-1860. Publications were circulated offering forums for problem-solving, both old and new issues. The era highlighted experimentation, and extension services were offered across the Commonwealth. Almanacs and magazines aimed at middle-class farmers promoted single functions for farm buildings as more efficient, and helpful in saving time and money in farming.<sup>19</sup>

Building complexes during this period reflected the type of crops and livestock raised by farmers, and the work force necessary to operate the farm. For example, Jefferson County of 1860 was the top county in the Commonwealth for "animals slaughtered, the production of hay, market gardening, and orchards; and second in production of barley and butter..." for both the city trade and as provisions for steamboats. The acreage of farms in the area around Louisville, known as the Outer Bluegrass, increased during the 1850s and 1860s. relative to necessary buildings within a farm complex, Jefferson County also led the counties in the number of individuals identified as slaves on the census.<sup>20</sup> The farmers of Jefferson County employing slave labor built residences for the slaves on the farms. The slave residences needed would depend on the number of slaves held by the farmer.

Farming efforts in Jefferson County were side-tracked by the Civil War, 1861-1865. Still, during the war, Kentucky ranked fifth in the nation for its production of livestock, including mules, horses, cattle, hogs and sheep.<sup>21</sup> Livestock production required the farmer to build barns for animal storage, and cribs for grain storage as food for the livestock, in addition to grazing in pasture. Following the Civil War, Kentucky lost its prominence in the livestock trade to western markets. Importantly, Kentucky farmers were slow to adopt new practices promoted by the agricultural college movement in the United States. A turning point in the efforts of agriculture in Kentucky occurred with the establishment of the Bureau of Agriculture, Horticulture, and Statistics, in 1876. The bureau quantified statistics on crops, orchards, gardens, dairies. Importantly, the reports also gathered statistics on roads, and railroads, and proximities to markets. By 1891 the reports quantified livestock.<sup>22</sup>

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Farmers in the County were supported by agricultural associations. Agricultural Fairs were held in Jefferson County throughout the nineteenth century, including in Crescent Hill on a 38-acre fair grounds from the 1850s to the 1870s. Fern Creek hosted a large agricultural fair beginning in 1877 that ran until the turn of the century. Farmers were called on to volunteer to organize local fruit and vegetable fairs and county fairs, indicative of their prominence in the community. This followed in a tradition set by gentleman farmers in the Bluegrass region of Kentucky as early as the 1830s. By sharing agricultural methods, farmers were able to improve their practices, which resulted in increased farming yields and produce and stock quality.

Farming was changing in the county by the turn of the century. A study ordered by the US Department of Agriculture to help farmers plan for profitable farming of the future noted that "Old types of farms once dominant are disappearing and new types are organized to profit by the opportunities offered. Farms that were once profitable as large units, under an extensive system of agriculture, come to be relatively unprofitable under new conditions creating higher values for real estate...The general mixed type of farm, representing the extensive system and a high degree of diversity, is the least profitable in this area."<sup>23</sup>

The report further noted that the availability of cheap land was causing farmers to move farms further away from the city. Those factors signaled the abandonment of farm complexes as farmers moved further out for cheaper land, and offered the farms for sale for residential development.

**Comparative Data**

Field study and research revealed 22 extant farm complexes from the period 1850 through 1900 in Jefferson County for comparison. Following extensive investigation, those sites in Jefferson County from the period of significance which possessed one or more outbuildings, or other elements of a farm complex were included in the study, and enumerated in Table 8.1. Importantly, none of the 22 sites in Jefferson County contain all of the same outbuildings. This is due to several factors, primary among them being demolition. Moreover, some resources, such as extant privies, were absent from all 22 farms studied. Importantly, not all farms would have needed all the building types commonly found in the Bluegrass. The goal of the comparison was to locate farms with extant outbuilding, determine the functions of those buildings, and develop working knowledge of the extant farm complexes from the period of significance.

Twenty of the 22 sites surveyed and identified for comparison within this context are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Of the studied properties, five are Jefferson County Landmarks. The Funk House (JF 225) is not listed in the National Register, or on the list of County Landmarks. The site has been severely modified and the main house moved to accommodate big box retail development on site, and is ineligible for listing. The Simeon Lewis farm (JF-152) also not listed, was not nominated due to a previous owner's objections to listing. The complex was assessed by the State Historic Preservation Office staff as eligible for listing during a 1981 survey of the county. The Simeon Lewis site retains what appears from research and fieldwork to be the most comprehensive farm complex, or collection of outbuildings in Jefferson County. With resources ranging in construction dates from circa 1830 to circa 1900, the Simeon Lewis site is a rare remnant of a farm complex, once common in Jefferson County.

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Buildings extant on Jefferson County farm complexes from the period of significance are listed and described:

**Main Houses**

Each farm studied featured a main house, historically occupied by the farm owners, or the individuals managing the farm. The main house was most often the centerpiece of the farm complex in its location, often arranged on site in a dominant position, with additional buildings to its sides or rear. The main house was often visible from the historic roadway, even when deep setbacks were observed. In some cases the main house was situated on a natural rise on the property. Farms in the study were historically developed by middle-class or upper-middle-class families. The main houses were one- or two-story buildings, and most built of brick. The houses ranged in architectural style from Greek Revival, to Gothic Revival, and Italianate. In several cases the main house construction predates the period of significance, but is evaluated as contributing in importance to the complex.

**Slave/Tenant Houses**

Of the 22 identified farm sites with remaining outbuildings in Jefferson County, eleven have intact slave houses/tenant houses remaining on-site, including Clearwater Farm (JF 127), Beechland (JF 214), Beechlawn (JF 216), the Kennedy Hunsinger Farm (JF 221), Harriett Funk Hise House/Nunnlea (JF 224), Tyler-Sweeney House (JF 260), Blackacre (JC 298), Oxmoor (JF 313/314), Soldiers Retreat (JF 317), Belleview (JF 453), and the A.G. Herr House/Magnolia Stock Farm (JF 490).

Slave houses often continued use as residences on Jefferson County farms. Most typically built of log and frame, five of the eleven surviving examples in Jefferson County are of brick construction. The study found single-pen (one room) and double-pen (two room) buildings. Important to note, masonry examples tend to be more durable and thus remain in greater numbers across Kentucky today.<sup>24</sup> The Tyler-Sweeney House (JF 260) complex features a log slave house. Three other farmsteads, including Blackacre (JF 298), Soldiers Retreat (JF 317), and the A.G. Herr House/Magnolia Stock Farm (JF 490) feature complexes with slave houses built of stone. Soldiers Retreat was the site of several stone slave quarters, three of which remain.

Several are similar in design, including the choice of brick exteriors and gable roofs. Farm complexes with similar brick slave houses include Clearwater Farm, Beechland, Beechlawn, the Harriett Funk Hise House/Nunnlea and the Simeon Lewis Farm. The Oxmoor (JF 313/314) complex features four large brick slave/tenant houses on the property. Moreover, Oxmoor's owners were more financially successful than others in the study. Thus, the buildings in the Oxmoor farm complex are larger in scale and more ornate than other buildings in the study.

**Privies**

No extant privy buildings remained on any of the 22 farms studied for this context. Archaeological evidence would be expected to yield information on locations and time periods for those resources.

**Spring Houses**

Clean water was a necessity on all farms. Riverside, Belleview and Locust Grove are located near a major water source, the Ohio River, and nearby creeks or streams. The other properties in the study have streams on site, such as the Simeon Lewis farm, Clearwater Farm, the Omer Pound farm, and Blackacre. Within the study, nearly half of the properties maintained structures built to protect the water supply at its source, the

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spring. These buildings often served as storage or refrigeration for food. Those properties in the study with a spring house within the complex are Omer-Pound, Kennedy-Hunsinger, Yenowine-Kennedy, the Funk House, the Tyler-Sweeney Farm, Oxmoor, Soldiers Retreat, George Herr House, and the John Herr farm.

**Smokehouses**

Smokehouses were a common component of Jefferson County farm complexes, generally among the first outbuildings constructed on farms.<sup>25</sup> Of the 22 comparison farm sites, thirteen included a smokehouse within the farm complex. Of these, eight are very similar to one another. Characteristics of design include a square footprint, brick exterior, and a hipped roof, and stark in ornamental features. These eight smokehouses include the Simeon Lewis farm (JF152) Beechland (JF 214), Beechlawn (JF 216), Harriett Funk Hise House/Nunnlea (JF 224), Blackacre (JF 298), Oxmoor (JF 313/314), John Herr House (JF 395), and A.G. Herr House/Magnolia Stock Farm (JF 490). The Beechland, Beechlawn, Harriett Funk Hise House and Simeon Lewis smokehouses are very similar in design, including the diamond-pattern vents in the walls. A small brick smokehouse with a front-gabled, rather than hipped, roof is associated with Belleview (JF 453).

The five other smokehouses in the study include four of stone construction. The smokehouse at Locust Grove (JF 524), that site's only original outbuilding, is stone and examples at the Kennedy Hunsinger Farm (JF 221), Wildwood Farm (JF 311), and George Herr House (JF 394). Wildwood Farm features the only known two-story smokehouse in the county. The Abell Farm (JF 357) boasts Jefferson County's only octagonal smokehouse, which is also the only one of frame construction.

**Barns**

Most Kentucky barns are of three distinct types: English barns, which feature side-gabled structures typically designed with a center aisle flanked by two side areas; Aisled barns, with a long center aisle flanked by bays on either side; and bank barns, built into the side of a hill for easy access to both upper and lower floors. The aisled barn is the most common in Kentucky, and was easiest to construct. The barn created flexibility for the farmer, accommodating many uses livestock storage, carriage and equipment storage. The barn also featured a large covered work area for tasks such as threshing grain.<sup>26</sup>

Despite the need of barns on nineteenth century farms, of the twenty-two identified comparison farmsteads, only one-third retain barns. These include a double-pen log barn at Locust Grove (JF 524), a late twentieth century reconstruction; a two-story frame barn at Belleview (JF 453), constructed circa 1910; and the Kennedy-Hunsinger crib barn (JF 221), constructed circa 1920. The Clearwater Farm (JF127) complex features two board and batten aisled barns, constructed circa 1870. The Simeon Lewis farm features a bank barn of frame construction. Three barns of log construction are located on the Yenowine- Kennedy farm (JF 222), Robert Tyler Farm (JF 259), and Blackacre (JF 298). The barn in the agricultural complex at Riverside (JF 13), a County Landmark, was demolished in the 1960s due to disrepair.

**Corn Cribs**

The Simeon Lewis corn crib is the only known remaining nineteenth century example in Jefferson County. Typically long, narrow, rectangular buildings, cribs were storage buildings expressly designed to house grain while it cured for market, or use on the farm. The design of the building featured horizontal boards, with

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measured spaces, allowing air to circulate and thus dry corn stored there. Of the 22 comparison farm complexes examined, only one corn crib remains. A corn crib on Belleview (JF 453) was constructed circa 1910, outside the period of significance. The Simeon Lewis crib, which consisted of two pens separated by an open aisle, is a design associated with larger farms.<sup>27</sup> The Simeon Lewis corn crib, as the sole known example of this once common resource provides information about crop production and storage on nineteenth century farms.

**Table 8.1 Farm Complexes in Jefferson County, 1850-1900**

Site Name JF Number	Main Residence	Secondary Residence	Smokehouse	Barn	Corn Crib	Other	Historic Designation/Notes
Simeon Lewis JF 152	2 story brick Federal-style I-house, c. 1802-1820	1 story brick single-pen slave/tenant house with gable roof and stone foundation, c. 1802- 1820	1 story square brick smoke house with hipped roof, c. 1802-1820	Frame bank barn sided with vertical wood planks, c. 1855	Log center- aisle corn crib, c. 1855		
Riverside JF 13	2 story, brick I-house, c. 1837	Slave/tenant house, c. 1860, demolished late 1980s.		Frame barn, c. 1860, demolished c. 1960		Reconstructed frame detached kitchen, 1999	NR CL
Locust Avenue/Clearwater Farm JF 127	2 1/2 story, brick Federal house, c. 1820	1 story double pen brick slave/tenant house		2 board and batten barns, c. 1870		3 garage/ sheds, c. 1920s, cemetery	
Omer-Pound House JF 196	1 1/2 story stone house c. 1796 with 1870s frame addition.					Log and stone spring house, c. late 1700s	NR CL



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**Table 8.1 Farm Complexes in Jefferson County, 1850-1900**

Site Name JF Number	Main Residence	Secondary Residence	Smokehouse	Barn	Corn Crib	Other	Historic Designation/Notes
Beechland JF 214	2 story, 3 bay brick with Flemish bond façade, c. 1812 with mid-19 <sup>th</sup> century addition	Brick one story slave/tenant house	Brick smoke house			Additional modern outbuildings (unspecified)	NR Brick smokehouse similar in design to Simeon Lewis
Beechlawn JF 216	One story brick pavilion-form residence with hipped roof, c. 1866	Brick tenant house with two exterior chimneys	Brick smoke house with hipped roof				NR Brick smokehouse similar in design to Simeon Lewis
Kennedy-Hunsinger Farm JF 221	2 story, 5 bay frame Federal-style building, c. 1809	Frame slave/tenant quarters, c. 1840, restored 2005	Stone smoke house, c. 1840	Transverse crib barn, board and batten siding, c. 1920		Poultry and cow sheds, c. 1925; collapsed limestone springhouse	NR
Yenowine-Kennedy House JF 222	4 bay brick residence c. 1835			V-notched log barn		Collapsed stone spring house	NR
Stonybrook JF 223	1 story pavilion form house, c. 1865					Round brick ice house, c1865	NR Residence has lost integrity of location

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**Table 8.1 Farm Complexes in Jefferson County, 1850-1900**

Site Name JF Number	Main Residence	Secondary Residence	Smokehouse	Barn	Corn Crib	Other	Historic Designation/Notes
Harriett Funk Hise House (Nunnlea) JF 224	1 story brick pavilion form residence with hipped roof, c. 1854- 1862	Brick double-pen slave/tenant quarters	Brick smoke house with hipped roof				NR CL Smokehouse is similar in design to Simeon Lewis smokehouse
Funk House/Avon/Cherry Springs JF 225	2 1/2 story, 5 bay brick residence with two story ell, c. 1803					2 story stone spring house, ca. 1790s	
Robert Tyler Farm JF 259	2 story log house c. 1800 with 2 story stone addition			Log barn with weather- boarded walls		Stone spring House; Reconstructed log structures	NR
Tyler-Sweeney House JF 260	2 story, 3 bay brick residence, remodeled to reflect Italianate style, c. 1840	2 story, stone house, c. 1800; Log slave/tenant quarters, c. 1800				Collapsed stone spring house	NR
Blackacre JF 298	2 story, 5 bay brick Greek Revival residence with 2 story ell, c. 1844	1 story, 2 room stone house, c. 1795	Brick smoke house with hipped roof, c. 1850	Double-crib log barn, c. 1800		Stone spring house; modern frame garage; frame 19 <sup>th</sup> century outbuilding	NR

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**Table 8.1 Farm Complexes in Jefferson County, 1850-1900**

Site Name JF Number	Main Residence	Secondary Residence	Smokehouse	Barn	Corn Crib	Other	Historic Designation/Notes
Harriett Funk Hise House (Nunnlea) JF 224	1 story brick pavilion form residence with hipped roof, c. 1854-1862	Brick double-pen slave/tenant quarters	Brick smoke house with hipped roof				NR CL Smokehouse is similar in design to Simeon Lewis smokehouse
Funk House/Avon/Cherry Springs JF 225	2 1/2 story, 5 bay brick residence with two story ell, c. 1803					2 story stone spring house, ca. 1790s	
Robert Tyler Farm JF 259	2 story log house c. 1800 with 2 story stone addition			Log barn with weather-boarded walls		Stone spring House; Reconstructed log structures	NR
Tyler-Sweeney House JF 260	2 story, 3 bay brick residence, remodeled to reflect Italianate style, c. 1840	2 story, stone house, c. 1800; Log slave/tenant quarters, c. 1800				Collapsed stone spring house	NR
Blackacre JF 298	2 story, 5 bay brick Greek Revival residence with 2 story ell, c. 1844	1 story, 2 room stone house, c. 1795	Brick smoke house with hipped roof, c. 1850	Double-crib log barn, c. 1800		Stone spring house; modern frame garage; frame 19 <sup>th</sup> century outbuilding	NR

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**Table 8.1: Farm Complexes in Jefferson County 1850-1900**

Site Name JF Number	Main Residence	Secondary Residence	Smokehouse	Barn	Corn Crib	Other	Historic Designation/Notes
James Brown House/Wildwood Farm JF 311	2 story, 5 bay brick with Flemish bond; original house c. 1820; additions mid 19 <sup>th</sup> and 20 <sup>th</sup> centuries		2 story stone smoke house			Cemetery remains on separate parcel	NR
Oxmoor JF 313/314	Clapboard wing c. late 1700s, 2 story brick addition, Federal style, c. 1800; brick additions added in 1910 and 1927	4 large brick slave/tenant houses, c.1840- 1860	Brick smoke house			Stone springhouse; brick ice house; detached brick kitchen; slave kitchen, overseer's house, hemp house, 2 story log farmhouse, ca. 1780s	NR Brick smokehouse is similar to Simeon Lewis, includes diamond vents
Soldiers Retreat JF 317	2 story stone house reconstructed in 1980s	3 one-story stone slave/tenant quarters				Stone spring house	NR CL

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**Table 8.1 Farm Complexes in Jefferson County, 1850-1900**

Site Name JF Number	Main Residence	Secondary Residence	Smokehouse	Barn	Corn Crib	Other	Historic Designation/Notes
Abell Farm JF 357	2 story brick Federal-style residence with 1 story wing, c.1804		Board and batten octagonal smoke house, c. 1850				NR
George Herr House JF 394	2 story brick Federal-style residence, c. 1824 with 1945 one story addition		Stone smoke house			1 story stone spring house; family cemetery	NR
John Herr House JF 395	2 story brick Georgian, c. 1790s and 1850s		1 story brick smokehouse with stone foundations, on adjacent lot			2 story brick springhouse, upper level likely used as slave/servants residence	NR
Belleview JF 453	2 story brick I-house c. 1855 with 1865 addition	One story, frame side- gabled tenant house, c. 1910	One story, front gabled brick smoke house, c. 1855	2 story frame barn with shed roof additions flanking main block, c. 1910	One story frame drive- through corn crib, c. 1910	1 story brick carriage house, c. 1875-90	NR

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**Table 8.1 Farm Complexes in Jefferson County, 1850-1900**

Site Name JF Number	Main Residence	Secondary Residence	Smokehouse	Barn	Corn Crib	Other	Historic Designation/Notes
Abell Farm JF 357	2 story brick Federal-style residence with 1 story wing, c.1804		Board and batten octagonal smoke house, c. 1850				NR
George Herr House JF 394	2 story brick Federal-style residence, c. 1824 with 1945 one story addition		Stone smoke house			1 story stone spring house; family cemetery	NR
John Herr House JF 395	2 story brick Georgian, c. 1790s and 1850s		1 story brick smokehouse with stone foundations, on adjacent lot			2 story brick springhouse, upper level likely used as slave/servants residence	NR
Belleview JF 453	2 story brick I-house c. 1855 with 1865 addition	One story, frame side- gabled tenant house, c. 1910	One story, front gabled brick smoke house, c. 1855	2 story frame barn with shed roof additions flanking main block, c. 1910	One story frame drive- through corn crib, c. 1910	1 story brick carriage house, c. 1875-90	NR

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Site Name JF Number	Main Residence	Secondary Residence	Smokehouse	Barn	Corn Crib	Other	Historic Designation/Notes
A.G. Herr House/ Magnolia Stock Farm JF 490	2 story brick Italianate residence, c. 1877	Stone cabin	Brick smoke house				NR
Locust Grove JF 524	2 1/2 story brick double- pile Georgian house, c. 1790		Stone meat house only original building remaining	Reconstructed double-pen log barn			NR CL NHL

**Historic Designations Key:**

National Register of Historic Places	NR
County Landmark	CL
National Historic Landmark	NHL

**Conclusion**

Jefferson County's farm complexes evolved during the period of significance to forever change the landscape of the farm. "From the one- to two-room house and sparse domestic and agricultural complexes of the settlement period, the antebellum middling- to upper-level farmstead had been, in general transformed into a landscape with numerous structures serving increasingly specific purposes. These outbuildings reflected the prosperity of scientific ideas guiding the development of the antebellum farmstead."<sup>28</sup> The farm complex from the period of significance is a rare resource in Jefferson County, victim to changes in farming and residential developments.

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**Simeon B. Lewis Rural Historic District History**

Simeon B. Lewis purchased the land for his farm in two parcels along the Bardstown turnpike in 1851 and 1852 from an established family. The Kellar family, Augustus and Elizabeth Kellar, Kenny and Eliza Duncan, and Jane Kellar sold Lewis land over the two years. Jane Kellar sold Lewis an additional 55 acres in 1852, which included a building known as Kellar Tavern, the main house of the proposed historic district, bringing his total land holdings to 231 acres.<sup>29</sup>

Originally settled in the late 1770s, the region along Bardstown Road between present day Watterson Trail (just north of the Simeon Lewis farmstead) and the Gene Snyder Freeway (I-265) was first known as Stringtown. After the construction of the Louisville-Bardstown Turnpike, farmers settled the area, attracted by its proximity to Louisville, easy transportation, and available tracts of land. By the 1850s, large farms lined Bardstown Road, their farmhouses sited close to the road. Fern Creek remained a rural, agricultural community through the end of the nineteenth century.<sup>30</sup>

The Simeon Lewis Rural Historic District was a middle-class farm, identified as such by the socioeconomic status of its owner during the period of significance, and its location in southeastern Jefferson County.<sup>31</sup> Upper-class farms were most often sited in the northeastern portion of the county, along what are now Brownsboro, Shelbyville, and Taylorsville roads. This area boasted fine soil and easy access to major transportation routes, including the Ohio River. Upper-class farms in this area included Oxmoor (JF 313/314), Soldiers Retreat (JF 317), and Locust Grove (JF 524). Middle-class farms tended to be clustered in southeastern Jefferson County, avoiding the swampy and knobby areas south of Louisville.<sup>32</sup> An exception is Riverside (JF 13), located 13 miles southwest of downtown Louisville on the Ohio River.

The main house has been known as Kellar Tavern, Fern Cliff, Nine Mile Tavern, and Peacock Inn throughout its history. The oldest section of the main residence was constructed circa 1830. The two-story, five-bay, Greek Revival-styled residence is typical in size and style of nineteenth-century middle-class farmhouses.<sup>33</sup> The house doubled as a family dwelling, inn and tavern, and subsequent owners used it as a single-family dwelling.

Simeon Lewis was one of the Fern Creek region's more prosperous farmers, his comparative wealth reflected in census records.<sup>34</sup> The proposed historic district remains one of the few agricultural holdings in the Fern Creek area today. His success was likely due to his prime location on Bardstown Road. Bardstown Road, or Highway 31E, serves Louisville as a major thoroughfare, connecting downtown to points southeast, including Fern Creek and Bardstown. In 1831, the Kentucky legislature chartered the Bardstown-Louisville Turnpike Company to construct a toll road connecting Bardstown and Louisville. Completed in 1838, the road passed through the small community along Fern Creek, where a toll gate, a common feature in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, was erected. Connecting communities of varying sizes, travelers, farmers and drovers were charged fixed rates for passage, generating income. Stagecoach lines frequented this route during the period of significance.<sup>35</sup> Lewis's farm's proximity to Bardstown Road played an important role in his ability to transport goods to market.

Lewis operated not only a farm during his tenure, but also a stagecoach service. The main house, a Greek Revival-styled I-house, served as an inn and tavern, hosting travelers between Bardstown and Louisville. Lewis likely called the spot Nine Mile Tavern, as it was located nine miles outside of Louisville's city center.



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A United States Post Office also operated from the site. Although the dates of operation are unclear, it was on the property by 1858, but was removed to a location further south along Bardstown Road by 1879.<sup>36</sup>

Historical records indicate that the Lewis property was one of the most profitable in the area. In 1860, for example, the farm was valued at \$32,000, at a time when the value of most of the farms in the Fern Creek region rarely exceeded \$10,000.<sup>37</sup> As was typical of Jefferson County farmers of the time, Lewis raised wheat, corn, oats, and potatoes on his three hundred improved acres, and produced 124 pounds of wool, five tons of hay, and 700 pounds of butter. He also owned eighteen horses, rather than the more typical two or three on neighboring farms. These horses were likely used for his stagecoach business and may account for the large size of the barn on the property.

By 1870, Lewis remained one of the wealthiest farmers in the district. Although the farm had only two hundred acres in production, it was valued at \$36,000, an increase from the previous decade, and was continuing to raise wheat, corn, oats, and potatoes, as well as a new crop of barley. Lewis owned thirty-five horses, again vastly more than other farms in the region. The increase in the number of horses, which were likely used for his stagecoach business, indicates that that business was financially successful as well. The 1870 census also indicates that the farm's orchard doubled in value, producing \$50 in 1860 and \$100 in 1870.<sup>38</sup>

The farm's prosperity was no doubt due in great measure to Lewis's enslaved African-American labor force. Prior to purchasing his farm from the Kellars and Duncans, Lewis owned twelve slaves, including at least three possible family groups of five adult males, three adult females, and four children. By 1860, when he was the proprietor of a stagecoach business as well as an inn and tavern, Lewis held seventeen slaves, including three adult and two teen-aged males, and three adult females in addition to eight children under thirteen. This large work force for domestic and agricultural tasks illustrates the number of people needed to maintain the inn, tavern, and stagecoach business, as well as operate the farm.<sup>39</sup> Here, too, Simeon Lewis exceeded the average. Slave records for Jefferson County reveal that 2,258 households reported owning slaves in 1860. Only 250 households, including Simeon Lewis's, owned more than ten slaves, placing him among the more financially affluent farmers. Slavery in Kentucky peaked in 1830. An 1833 legislative act barred the importation of slaves into the state, and Kentucky's cotton production faltered as it increased in the deeper South. Despite this, the mid-nineteenth century was a time in which most Kentucky farms used slave labor, and middle-class farmers typically held between two and eight field hands.<sup>40</sup>

Although the 1870 census indicated that Lewis was financially well-off, he was declared bankrupt in federal court on February 12, 1874.<sup>41</sup> Lewis had more than likely been hard-hit by the national depression following the Panic of 1873. This depression, which resulted in the unemployment of 20% of the nation's work-force, was caused by the overextension of railroads. The collapse of Cooke and Company, a bank underwriting the Northern Pacific Railroad as it pushed across the northwest, precipitated a dramatic fall of stocks and the close of the New York Stock Exchange for ten days, beginning on September 20. As railroads defaulted, supply industries such as iron, steel, lumber, and glass slumped. By the end of the year, the panic had caused 5,000 commercial failures, many of these in the south and west, where railroad building had been most active following the Civil War.<sup>42</sup>

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Following bankruptcy, Lewis was forced to put his land for sale at county auction to pay his debtors. The auctioneers described the auction of the “Magnificent Farm of S.B. Lewis, Esq.,” and further stated that the farm was “well-known” and “one of the most valuable farms in Jefferson County.”<sup>43</sup> At that time, the land was subdivided, and J.P. Lithicum purchased the tract with the house and outbuildings for \$14,835, a fraction of its assessed value in the 1870 census.<sup>44</sup> Lithicum farmed the tract and supplemented his income with a blacksmith shop located on the southwestern corner of the property.<sup>45</sup>

Following his death in 1884, Lithicum’s widow sold the property to Bryan and John Williams.<sup>46</sup> The Williams family continued farming the remaining 67 acres, and was active in the Fern Creek community.<sup>47</sup> Bryan Williams’ interest in the farm’s orchard is evident from his role as co-founder of the Fern Creek Fruit Fair and organizer of the Jefferson County Fair Company, where he served as president.<sup>48</sup> Such activities were common for affluent farmers in Kentucky, known as gentleman farmers. By sharing agricultural methods, farmers were able to improve their practices, resulting in increased farming yields and produce and stock quality. Williams’ assistance in organizing the local fruit fair and county fair was indicative of his prominence in the community as he followed in a tradition set by gentleman farmers in the Bluegrass region of Kentucky as early as the 1830s.<sup>49</sup>

After the turn of the twentieth century, Fern Creek experienced growth as a result of the interurban rail line. The Louisville and Interurban Railroad Company incorporated in January 1903, and immediately constructed rail lines to link five towns in the general metropolitan area with downtown Louisville. Service began on the line to Fern Creek on June 6, 1908. The rail line not only provided an efficient method of transporting crops to the Louisville markets for Fern Creek farmers, but opened the area to suburban settlement as well. The interurban line hauled such freight as cattle, lumber, dairy products, farm produce, and cement to the neighboring city and its rail hub.<sup>50</sup>

After the rail line reached Fern Creek, developers and city dwellers alike began to take notice of the area. Farmers subdivided their land, and smaller lots between three and five acres, began to line Bardstown Road, developing former farm land. Developers purchased entire parcels. The Walnut Hills Realty Company purchased a large tract along Fern Creek adjacent to the Simeon Lewis Rural Historic District (then owned by Bryan Williams).<sup>51</sup> By 1927, adjoining parcels to the Simeon Lewis Rural Historic District were showing signs of subdivision and new ownership, although Bryan Williams retained his 67 acres.<sup>52</sup> Although the small town was growing, it continued to retain its agricultural roots and character. The Fern Creek Fairgrounds continued to operate until 1928, and the town was known as the “fruit basket of Jefferson County.” The town’s growth spurt continued, although the interurban rail line ended service on December 26, 1933.<sup>53</sup>

The Williams family farmed the property for just over fifty years, until 1935, when the Title Insurance and Trust Company acquired the house, later selling it that same year to Andrew Barnett. Robert J. Seebold purchased the land and its improvements from Barnett in 1946. Although the property has been encroached upon by the widening of Bardstown Road to the west and the construction of Hurstbourne Parkway to the southeast, the holdings remain in the Seebold family today.<sup>54</sup>

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In the early 1950s, General Electric built one of Kentucky's largest plants four miles from Fern Creek, forever changing the small community. The new General Electric Appliance Park ushered in an era of home-building, leading to Fern Creek's transformation from a rural town to a suburb. Subdivisions were located south along Bardstown Road which was widened to a four-lane highway in the 1950s. Houses crowded the old Fern Creek Fairgrounds. By the 1970s, houses lined not only Bardstown Road but Watterson Trail, the old route to neighboring Jeffersontown to the northeast. Public works such as substations and sewer plants crowded the landscape, along with a much higher density of houses.<sup>55</sup>

Fern Creek farmhouses and accompanying outbuildings made way for development of subdivisions and retail outlets. In some instances, developers kept the main house but demolished the outbuildings and fields to make way for subdivisions. Glenmary (JF 144), located in Fern Creek at 8501 Bardstown Road, is an example of preservation of the main house and one outbuilding. Wildwood, also in Fern Creek, was a former 175-acre farm, and now serves as the Wildwood Country Club.<sup>56</sup> The construction of I-265, the Gene Snyder freeway in the 1980s brought new residential development interest to Fern Creek. The community grew to the south, and thus the whole length of Bardstown Road between downtown Louisville and the outer freeway became urbanized.

The Simeon Lewis Rural Historic District, however, retains its core characteristics of a nineteenth century Jefferson County farm. Although it has lost most of its acreage, it retains its house, domestic and agricultural outbuildings. Its remaining acreage, although diminished from even the early-twentieth century, allows it to retain the rural nature which once characterized Fern Creek. As Fern Creek evolved into a suburban rather than agricultural community, its farms were sold and domestic and agricultural buildings demolished.

### **Integrity**

#### **Location**

This complex of buildings and the farm they occupy are important to our understanding of the relationship between a farm's buildings, its crops, and its occupants. The agricultural and domestic buildings form an

The buildings retain their historic siting, with the domestic outbuildings arranged to the side and rear of the main house, and the agricultural outbuildings sited distantly from the house, closer to the fields.

#### **Association**

The complex of buildings continues to convey a relationship to the land they occupy. The site is easily identified as a farmstead, and the arrangement of the domestic and agricultural outbuildings associates the site with a nineteenth century farm. Additionally, the buildings retain their association with Bardstown Road, the historic and current artery connecting the farm to local markets.

#### **Setting**

The setting of this farm on a major toll road and rural thoroughfare during the nineteenth century period of significance remains to this day. The buildings retain their orientation to the road and thus to the outside world. Although the Fern Creek area has developed into a suburban community, the farm remains isolated and retains its rural setting due to its seclusion given by its 25.5 acres.

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**Feeling**

The feeling of a rural complex is intact at the Simeon Lewis farm site. Former owners from the period of significance would recognize the site and its remaining outbuildings and main house. Although the site retains its rural feeling, it is no longer a working farm. Outbuildings such as the corn crib, barn, and smokehouse are still used for storage, although they are no longer storing crops, housing animals, or curing meat. The only building not dating to the period of significance, the non-contributing carport, is constructed of modern materials and would thus be obvious to any former residents.

**Workmanship**

The quality of construction of the main residence and domestic and agricultural outbuildings has led to their long-term preservation. The vernacular design of the buildings identifies them as typical of a nineteenth-century middle-class farm. The corn crib's stone foundation piers and dovetail notching, both rare in Kentucky, were likely also constructed by a skilled carpenter.

**Materials**

The materials chosen, including brick, timber, and sawn boards, were common during the period of significance in this region of the country. The choice of brick for the main house, slave house, and smokehouse elevate the socioeconomic status of the owners, further indication that they were not subsistence farmers. These more durable materials have aided in preservation of the structures.

**Design**

All of the buildings retain significant architectural features from the period of significance. The house has been added to, has been typical for farm houses during the nineteenth century. The simplicity of design of the barn and corn crib, and the detailed brick work of the smokehouse, speak to attention to design detail, and a desire for modest identification.

**Conclusion**

The dawn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century brought changes to farms in Jefferson County and Kentucky. Advances in mechanized farming resulted in smaller farm sizes.<sup>57</sup> The evolution of farming can be traced, and the built environment evaluated, by examining farm layouts. Mechanized farming reduced the need for large labor forces, thus diminishing the importance of secondary residences on the farm landscape. Twentieth century advances in food production and transportation negated the construction of animal storage buildings, and intensive food preparation structures. Improved access and technologies had farm families reaching outward for goods and markets, where once they had lived on self-sufficient operations. The Simeon Lewis Historic District is significant for its ability to represent the cultural landscape of the nineteenth century farm, and for its superior collection of domestic and agricultural outbuildings, important for our modern understanding of historic farms in Jefferson County.

The Simeon Lewis Rural Historic District is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places for Criterion C, architecture, within the context "Farm Complexes in Jefferson County, Kentucky, 1850 -1900". This complex of domestic and agricultural buildings illustrates the evolution and changing uses of buildings on the Simeon Lewis farm, and in Jefferson County, Kentucky. The farm complex on the Simeon Lewis farm is important as a collection of resources which together advance our understanding of farm life across the county and on this farm.

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National Register nominations and survey forms may be found in the files of the Louisville Landmarks Commission, and State Historic Preservation Office.

A.G. Herr House/ Magnolia Stock Farm, JF 490  
Abell Farm, JF 357  
Beechland, JF 214  
Beechlawn, JF 216  
Bellevue, JF 453  
Blackacre, JF 298  
Diamond Fruit Farm / Dravo House, JF 215  
Funk House, JF 225  
George Herr House, JF 394  
Harriett Funk Hise House (Nunnlea), JF 224  
John Herr House, JF 395  
Kennedy Hunsinger Farm, JF 221  
Locust Grove, JF 524  
Omer Pound House, JF 196  
Oxmoor, JF 313, JF 314  
Riverside, JF 13  
Robert Tyler Farm, JF 259  
Soldiers Retreat, JF 317  
Stonybrook, JF 223  
Tyler-Sweeney House, JF 260  
Wildwood Farm, JF 311

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- <sup>1</sup> "Fern Creek," in John E. Kleber, ed., The Encyclopedia of Louisville (Lexington, KY: The University Press of Kentucky), 286.
- <sup>2</sup> Kennedy and Macintire, Agricultural and Domestic Outbuildings in Central and Western Kentucky, 1800-1856 (Frankfort, KY: Kentucky Heritage Council, 1999), 9.
- <sup>3</sup> Kennedy and Macintire, 8-11.
- <sup>4</sup> R. Douglas Hurt, American Farms: Exploring Their History (Krieger Publishing Company, Malabar, Florida: 1996), 108.
- <sup>5</sup> Kentucky Archaeological Survey, p.13
- <sup>6</sup> Bergmann map, Beers and Lanagan map
- <sup>7</sup> Agriculture in Louisville and Jefferson County, Kentucky, 1800-1930, 5.
- <sup>8</sup> Rachel Kennedy and William Macintire, 12.
- <sup>9</sup> Kennedy and Macintire, 23.
- <sup>10</sup> Kennedy and Macintire, 22.
- <sup>21</sup> Kennedy and Macintire, 20; Fern Creek Lore and Legacy, 46.
- <sup>11</sup> Beers and lanagan, 1879
- <sup>12</sup> Courtney Chambers, oral interview with Jay Stottman, December 2004.
- <sup>13</sup> Kentucky Encyclopedia, pg. 7
- <sup>14</sup> Kennedy and Macintire, 8-9
- <sup>15</sup> Kennedy and Macintire, 8-9
- <sup>16</sup> Kennedy and Macintire, 8-9
- <sup>17</sup> Kentucky Encyclopedia, pg. 893.
- <sup>18</sup> Louisville Encyclopedia, p. 743.
- <sup>19</sup> Kennedy and Macintire, 8-9
- <sup>20</sup> Louisville Encyclopedia, pp 464-465.
- <sup>21</sup> Kentucky Encyclopedia, pp. 8-9
- <sup>22</sup> Kentucky Encyclopedia, pg. 8-9
- <sup>23</sup> United States Department of Agriculture, Bulletin No. 678, pg.1.
- <sup>24</sup> Kennedy and Macintire, 12-13.
- <sup>25</sup> Kennedy and Macintire, 16.
- <sup>26</sup> Kennedy and Macintire, 20-21.
- <sup>27</sup> Kennedy and Macintire, 23.
- <sup>28</sup> Kennedy and Macintire, 10-11.
- <sup>29</sup> Deed Book 77, p. 174; Deed Book 78, p. 385; Deed Book 82, p. 427. The Kellars remained in Fern Creek NPS Form 10-900-a through 1870, as the name continues to appear in the 1850, 1860, and 1870 censuses. See also Jane Kellar, Original Will, Jefferson County Wills, Book 6, p. 351 to establish Lewis's relationship with the Kellar family.
- <sup>30</sup> Bergman Map of Jefferson County, Kentucky, 1858; Beers and Lanagan Map, 1879; Linda Stahl, "Fern Creek Builds on a Varied Past," Louisville Courier-Journal, June 5, 1998.
- <sup>31</sup> Agriculture in Louisville and Jefferson County, Kentucky, 1800-1930.
- <sup>32</sup> Jefferson County Historic Preservation and Archives Division, Louisville and Jefferson County Multiple Property Listing. Agriculture in Louisville and Jefferson County, Kentucky, 1800-1930, 1990, 5.
- <sup>33</sup> Louisville and Jefferson County Multiple Property Listing.
- <sup>34</sup> 1860, 1870 Census of Jefferson County, Kentucky.
- <sup>35</sup> John E. Kleber, ed., The Encyclopedia of Louisville, 286, and Fern Creek Lore and Legacy, 3.
- <sup>36</sup> Bergman Map of Jefferson County, Kentucky, 1858, and Beers and Lanagan Map, 1879.
- <sup>37</sup> 1860 Kentucky Agricultural Census, Jefferson County District 2, p. 8.
- <sup>38</sup> 1870 Kentucky Agricultural Census, Jefferson County, Jeffersontown District, p. 3. See also The Encyclopedia of Louisville, 18.
- <sup>39</sup> 1850 Census Slave Schedule, District 2, p. 970; 1860 Census Slave Schedule, District 2, p. 12.
- <sup>40</sup> Agriculture in Louisville and Jefferson County, Kentucky, 1800-1930. See also Thomas D. Clark, A History of Kentucky (Ashland, KY: The Jesse Stuart Foundation, 1992), 194.
- <sup>41</sup> Louisville Commercial, February 13, 1874.
- <sup>42</sup> Sean Dennis Cashman, America in the Gilded Age (New York: New York University Press, 1984), 29-30.
- <sup>43</sup> Louisville Commercial, March 29, 1874.
- <sup>44</sup> Deed Book 180, p. 356-257; Deed Book 172, p. 272.
- <sup>45</sup> The 1879 Beers and Lanahan Map shows a blacksmith shop on the property.
- <sup>46</sup> Deed Book 273, p. 312.
- <sup>47</sup> Louisville Title Atlas, 1913, and A.W. Hardin and Co., Real Estate Atlas of Jefferson County, Kentucky (Louisville, KY: 1927).
- <sup>48</sup> Fern Creek Lore and Legacy, 129. The Jefferson County Fairgrounds were located on the Fairgrounds Road in Fern Creek from about 1902 to 1928.
- <sup>49</sup> Kennedy and Macintire, 8.
- <sup>50</sup> John E. Kleber, The Encyclopedia of Louisville, 418-420.

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<sup>51</sup> Louisville Title Atlas, 1913; Grace Schneider, "Fern Creek: Change has been a Constant in Community's Development from Stagecoach Stop to Suburb," Louisville Courier-Journal, October 18, 1989.

<sup>52</sup> A.W. Hardin and Co., Real Estate Atlas of Jefferson County, Kentucky (Louisville, KY: 1927).

<sup>53</sup> Ward Sinclair and Harold Browning, "Fern Creek Has a Past: Home-Cooked Meals and Vast NPS Form 10-900-a Orchards," Louisville Times, October 19, 1965; and John E. Kleber, The Encyclopedia of Louisville, 418-420. OMB

<sup>54</sup> Deed Book 1561, p. 438; Deed Book 1559, p. 445.

<sup>55</sup> Fern Creek Lore and Legacy, 247; "Fern Creek Has a Past: Home-Cooked Meals and Vast Orchards," Louisville Times, October 19, 1965; U.S. Geological Survey, Jeffersontown Quadrangle topographic maps, 1955 and 1971.

<sup>56</sup> Louisville Lore and Legacy, 20, 47.

<sup>57</sup> Louisville and Jefferson County Multiple Property Listing, 5.



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Photographer: Courtney Chambers  
Date: November 15, 2004  
Location of Negatives: Louisville Landmarks, Louisville, Kentucky

1. Facing South, View of main façade
2. Facing North, View of rear façade
3. Facing East, View of west façade
4. Facing Southwest, View of east façade, non-contributing garage, and slave house
5. Facing Northeast, View of smokehouse, east and south façades
6. Facing Southwest, View of slave house, east and north façades
7. Facing East, View of barn and corn crib, main façades
8. Facing East, View of barn, main façade

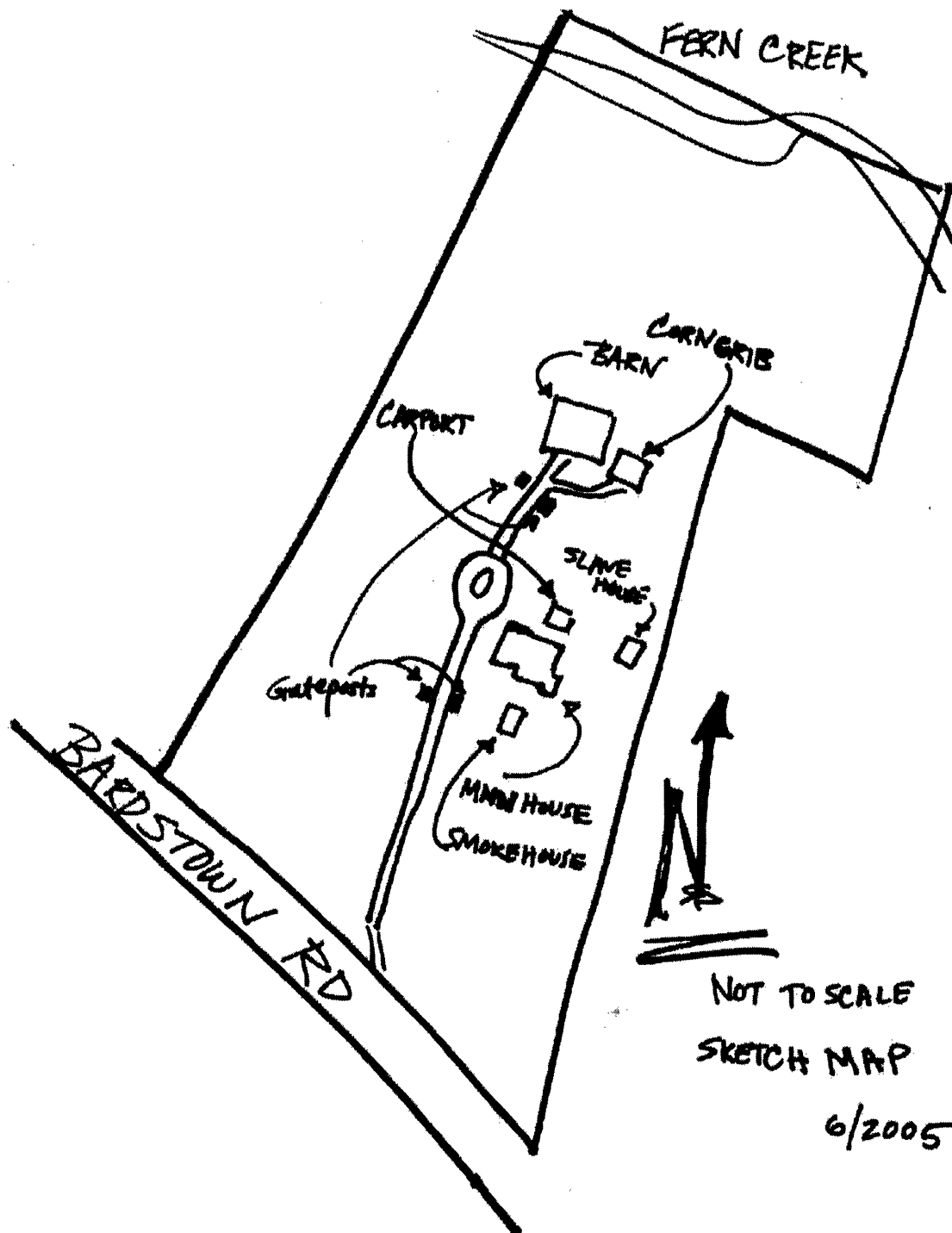
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Photo Key

