

PH00225526

Form 10-300  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Kentucky	
COUNTY:	Scott	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	
	APR 2 1973	

1. NAME	
COMMON:	Royal Spring Park
AND/OR HISTORIC:	Big Spring - Floyd's Big Spring, Town Commons

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:	West Of Water Street & Broadway between Clinton & Jefferson		
CITY OR TOWN:	Georgetown		
STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Kentucky	21	Scott	209

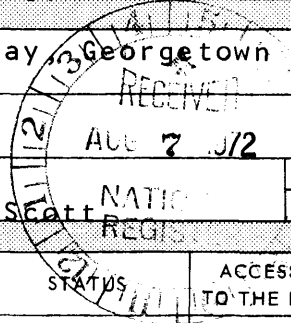
3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Comments <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) 1. municipal water works 2. Jail site 3. Utilities facilities

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY	
OWNER'S NAME:	City Of Georgetown (Kentucky Utilities - a small lot south of Spring Clinton St. Georgetown, Ky.)
STREET AND NUMBER:	Court Street
CITY OR TOWN:	Georgetown
STATE:	Kentucky
CODE	21

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION	
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:	Scott County Courthouse - County Clerk's Office
STREET AND NUMBER:	Main Street at North Broadway
CITY OR TOWN:	Georgetown
STATE:	Kentucky
CODE	21

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS	
TITLE OF SURVEY:	Survey Of Historic Sites In Kentucky
DATE OF SURVEY:	1971 <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:	Kentucky Heritage Commission
STREET AND NUMBER:	401 Wapping Street
CITY OR TOWN:	Frankfort
STATE:	Kentucky
CODE	21

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER: DATE: FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The area around Georgetown's Royal Spring which is known as the Royal Spring Park extends from the bluff immediately over the spring to the north property line of the county jail grounds, lying on both sides of the spring from the bluff northward to the Frankfort Pike (U.S. 460), and on the east side of the spring on the north side of the highway. One of the early water plant structures still mars the site near the bluff. The ecology is also hampered by the location of Kentucky Utilities offices and power apparatus south and southwest of the spring. The city water plant has settling and storage basins immediately north of the spring source and offices and treating plant on the corner of U.S. 460 and Royal Spring Drive. A large ditch and lack of landscaping further hinder potential beauty. A city parking lot on part of the area just west of Water Street is another deterrent to attractiveness. As has been the case in many other communities, the area of initial settlement has become a slum area. Considerable neighborhood improvement is obvious. The spring flows with considerable spirit in spite of the fact that it provides the City of Georgetown (pop. 8,000) with practically all its drinking water.

The bridge which carries traffic across West Main Street or U.S. 460 is a large structure laid of stone and dirt in 1795. Stone mason was Rodes Smith, who was granted the contract to "raise the bulkheads six feet high with stone, sixteen feet apart... the space between the sidewalks to be filled with dirt and stone.

In early days, obviously there was a freer flow of water. A paper mill dam erected in 1786 created a large pond. The fort stood on the grounds of the present Kentucky Utilities building and on Clinton Street hill. The city of Georgetown is planning to landscape the area and possibly to reconstruct the fort.

North of the line extending westward from Jefferson Street stood the 28 acre paper mill tract where the first paper West of the Appalachians was produced in 1793. Elijah Craig, founder of Georgetown, also circa 1790 erected on the banks of the Royal Springs a fulling mill, a ropewalk and a grist mill.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

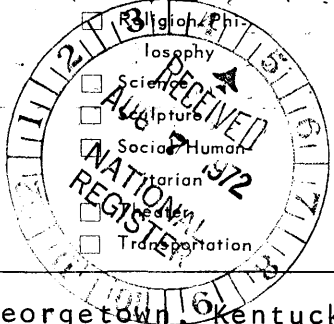
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 7-7-1774 (discovered); Oct 1775 (settled)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One, or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature		
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		



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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Royal Spring of Georgetown, Kentucky, was described, on its discovery in 1774 by Virginians engaged in laying off grants for soldiers who had served in the French and Indian War, as "the largest I have seen in the whole country, and forms a creek of itself." It was immediately claimed by Col. John Floyd, leader of the surveying party who found it to have a fall of 13'7" and to be about seven-tenths of a mile long. It was first called "Mr. Floyd's Spring." The next autumn the bluff over the spring was settled by a party of Pennsylvanians including John McClelland, Robert Patterson, John & Steven Lowry; William, Andrew, and Francis McConnell and other McClellands. The group built a cabin and occupied it until the following April (1776) when those not of the McClelland family, attempted to locate near Lexington. In June, 1776 Floyd visited McClelland, "determined to drive him off, but on seeing his wife and those small children who must have been distressed, I sold it for 300 pounds... I believe he is able enough." In July, the settlers who had chosen to stay in Kentucky in spite of mounting Indian attacks decided to erect a fort on the site of McClelland's cabin. Assisting in the work were Simon Kenton, John Todd, Levi Todd, Robert Patterson, and "the then inhabitants of Kentucky north of the Kentucky River." This was, continued Patterson, "the only garrison north of the Kentucky River and 40 miles in advance of any other." This fort stood above the bluff of the Royal Spring and was "40 paces from the top of the cliff." It was called McClelland's Fort. At this time, the fort at the Royal Spring was one of only four garrisons in Kentucky, the others being at Boonesborough, at St. Asaph's (Logan's), and at Harrodsburg. All the time that the forts were being strengthened physically, settlers were awaiting help in arms and men from Virginia, John Gabriel Jones and George Rogers Clark having been sent in late June for that purpose. In September, Patterson and the Pennsylvanians went to their former homes in a similar attempt for munitions as the need had become desperate not only for defense but also for provisions "as the inhabitants had to support entirely on game." In December, Clark and Jones returned with 500 pounds of gunpowder, hiding it on the lower of the Three Islands near Maysville. They then went to McClelland's Fort for help in hauling it inland. Finding most of the men of the fort out hunting, they sent a party including Kenton and Clark

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Draper Manuscript 24 CC 1--40, Hanson's Journal Of the 1774 Surveys.  
 Samuel M. Wilson, McClelland and His Men (Lexington:1956)  
 Draper Manuscript 15CC 157--162 (Levi Todd narrative).  
 Collins, Richard-History Of Kentucky (Vol. 11) p.176,549,550,516.  
 Draper Manuscript MM--9--19,6, incorporating Patterson data.  
 Draper Manuscript 16J, 26, 27, 44 (SOURCES TAKEN FROM Ann B. Bevins,  
 Draper Manuscript 6 BB 20, 1BB 78 The Royal Spring of Georgetown  
 Draper Manuscript 5CC 84,18 Cc 130 (Gtn.: 1970)  
 Edna Kenton, Simon Kenton-His Life and Period(Garden City:1930  
 p. 72, 80, 81 (see continuation sheet)

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"		84°	33'	33"
NE	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"		38°	12'	37"
SE	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"				
SW	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"				

NO UTM  
CY

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 7.69 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Ann B. Bevins, County Representative

ORGANIZATION: Kentucky Heritage Commission DATE: 1/18/72

STREET AND NUMBER: Route # 4 - Lexington Pike

CITY OR TOWN: Georgetown STATE: Kentucky CODE: 21

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name [Signature]

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date 8/2/72

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

[Signature]  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 4/2/73

ATTEST: [Signature]  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 3/22/73

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#8 Statement of Significance

to Harrodsburg, leaving Jones at McClelland's Fort. Jones and Col. John Todd, however, hastily organized a party of returned hunters to go after the powder. The party was routed. Four days later, Indians under Shawnee Chief Pluggy attacked McClelland's Fort, fatally wounding John McClelland and Charles White. Four days later, the people of McClelland's Fort vacated their station and moved to Harrodsburg. Levi Todd commented, "As the whole of the men on the north side of Kentucky River did not exceed thirty, they despaired of keeping their ground without great loss and fatigue."

Activities at the Royal Spring were discontinued until the area was resettled in 1786 by a group of Baptists from Virginia under the direction of landowner Elijah Craig, minister, industrialist, speculator and educator. Craig acquired clear title in 1789.

Craig was given credit for distilling the first bourbon whiskey at his paper mill as of 1789, by historian Richard Collins. In 1788 he opened a classical academy for 50 or 60 scholars. By 1800 there were 300 persons in the town which was a leader in the various milling enterprises.

The paper mill, which provided paper for the Kentucky Gazette as well as for the Commonwealth of Kentucky, stood on a tract owned today by Billy Stone. The 28 acre tract was split up into lots in the 1880's. The house where the miller and mill hands lived still stands, facing North Broadway.

Two historical markers stand on the Royal Spring Park Site, one commemorating the discovery of Bourbon Whiskey (erected by the Bourbon Institute) and one commemorating McClelland's Fort (erected by the Kentucky Historical Society.)



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#9 Bibliographical References

E.H. Stedman, Bluegrass Craftsman (Lexington:1959),  
pp. 211, 212, 218, 213-217.

