

NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

MAR 1994

NATIONAL
REGISTER

1. Name of Property

historic name: Fort Boonesborough Townsite Historic District
Other name/site number: Ft. Boonesborough State Park (15MA41,123,128,131-135, 138-139)

2. Location

street & number: 4375 Old Boonesborough Road not for publication: N/A
city/town: Richmond vicinity: x
state: Ky county: Madison code: 151 zip code: 40475

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: private, public-state
Category of Property: district
Number of Resources within Property:

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| <u>12</u> | <u>5</u> | buildings |
| <u>1</u> | <u>9</u> | sites |
| <u>1</u> | <u>1</u> | structures |
| <u>1</u> | <u>1</u> | objects |
| <u>13</u> | <u>15</u> | Total |

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
x See continuation sheet

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria.

David L. Morgan David L. Morgan, Executive Director/
State Historic Preservation Officer
Signature of certifying official Date 2-10-94

Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency and bureau

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5. National Park Service Certification

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I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
 ___ See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the
 National Register
 ___ See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the
 National Register
 removed from the National Register
 other (explain): _____

Carol Osburn 4-14-94

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

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6. Function or Use

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| | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Historic: <u>domestic</u> | Sub: <u>single dwelling</u> |
| <u>defense</u> | Sub: <u>military facility</u> |
| <u>agriculture/subsistence</u> | Sub: <u>storage</u> |
| <u>transportation</u> | Sub: <u>water related</u> |

Current : outdoor recreation
vacant/not in use
agricultural field

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification: No style

Other Description: dogtrot plan

Materials: foundation stone roof shingle
 walls log/weatherboard other brick chimneys

Describe present and historic physical appearance. x See continuation sheet.

The Fort Boonesborough Townsite Historic District is located along the Kentucky River in northern Madison County, Kentucky (Figure 1). The District contains one standing structure and twelve historic archaeological sites associated with the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century fort and town of Boonesborough. One of the archaeological sites also contains a prehistoric Fort Ancient village which is included in this nomination. Just under half of the district is included within the bottomland portion of Ft. Boonesborough State Park; the remainder is in private ownership and used for agricultural purposes. The district encompasses approximately 352 acres. Included in the district is the archaeological site of the stockaded fort built in 1775 by Judge Richard Henderson, Daniel Boone and other members of the Transylvania Land Company. This fort served as a defensive sanctuary, communication center, temporary residence and political seat for hundreds of settlers who entered Kentucky in the 1770s-1790s. Along with the fort, eleven archaeological sites, one standing structure, one freshwater spring, a ferry location and a creek valley ("hollow") containing mineral and freshwater springs represent the ambitious but ill-fated attempts to develop a town around the fort. Most of the sites were residences but other

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8. Statement of Significance
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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: National

Applicable National Register Criteria: A, D, C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : N/A

Areas of Significance: archaeology - prehistoric aboriginal and historic non-aboriginal
exploration/settlement
military
commerce
agriculture
transportation

Period(s) of Significance: A.D. 1200-1400; A.D. 1775-1840

Significant Dates : 1775 1778

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: Native American; Euro-American/African-American

Architect/Builder: Henderson, Richard
Boone, Daniel

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Boonesborough Townsite Historic District is significant under the areas of prehistoric aboriginal and historic non-aboriginal archaeology, exploration/settlement, military, commerce and transportation. Historic contexts for the periods represented by Boonesborough are discussed in the comprehensive state plan for Kentucky (McBride and McBride 1990; Sharp 1990). Boonesborough was one of the earliest attempts at Euro-American settlement in Kentucky, serving as a military outpost during the Revolutionary War, an inspection point for tobacco after the War, a post office, and developing into a small town that was locally important until about 1820. Although the town did not survive for very long and was largely significant to the state of Kentucky, Fort Boonesborough was a nationally important site with regards to western expansion and the movement of the American frontier. The Fort Ancient site included within this district is a well preserved example of a small aboriginal village.

Archaeology - prehistoric aboriginal

The prehistoric component of the Tobacco Warehouse contains very well preserved remains of a Fort Ancient occupation predating A. D. 1400. Occupations of this time period contain regionally distinct ceramic assemblages which probably reflect diachronic and synchronic variability during the Fort Ancient Period (Sharp 1990: 469). This site's location is distant enough from the Kentucky River to have been safe from most yearly flooding. The density of artifacts and midden is also substantial, suggesting a longterm occupation, probably at the level of a small village. The chronological placement of this site is within the Middle Fort Ancient period. For the Central Bluegrass District (in which the site is located), only a few Middle Fort Ancient sites have been professionally investigated in any detail. None of these sites are on the Kentucky River. The prehistoric component of the Tobacco Warehouse Site has the potential for yielding very important information about the nature of Middle Fort Ancient life in the Kentucky River drainage, as well as providing more data on small village

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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Bastian, Beverly E.

1982 Fort Independence: An Eighteenth-Century Frontier Homesite and Militia Post in South Carolina. Russell Papers, Archaeological Services, Atlanta, Georgia.

Beckner, Lucien

1928 Reverend John D. Shane's Interview with Pioneer William Clinkenbeard. Filson Club History Quarterly 2: 95-128.

Draper, Lyman Manuscripts

n.d. Journal of Richard Henderson. 1CC32, microfilm on file, M.I.King Library, Special Collection, University of Kentucky, Lexington.

Kubiak, Lavinia

1988 Madison County Rediscovered: Selected Historic Architecture. Madison County Historical Society, Richmond.

Madison County Clerk's Office

Various deeds, orders on file concerning Boonesborough.

McBride, Kim and W. Stephen McBride

1990 Historic Period Culture History. In The Archaeology of Kentucky: Past Accomplishments and Future Directions. Volume 2. Edited by David Pollack, State Historic Preservation Comprehensive Plan Report No. 1, Kentucky Heritage Council.

O'Malley, Nancy

1990 Searching for Boonesborough. Archaeological Report 193, Revised edition. Department of Anthropology, University of Kentucky, Lexington.

Ranck, George W.

1901 Boonesborough. The Filson Club Publications 16, Louisville.

Sharp, William E.

1990 Fort Ancient Period. In The Archaeology of Kentucky: Past Accomplishments and Future Directions. Volume 2. Edited by David Pollack, State Historic Preservation Comprehensive Plan Report No. 1, Kentucky Heritage Council.

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 -- Specify Repository: _____

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10. Geographical Data
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Acreeage of Property: 352

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

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|---|-----------|---------------|----------------|---|-----------|---------------|----------------|
| A | <u>16</u> | <u>740130</u> | <u>4197650</u> | B | <u>16</u> | <u>740160</u> | <u>4198480</u> |
| C | <u>16</u> | <u>740800</u> | <u>4197520</u> | D | <u>16</u> | <u>740700</u> | <u>4196590</u> |

 x See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: See continuation sheet.

The Fort Boonesborough Townsite Historic District (Figure 1) begins at the point where the old Boonesborough Ferry Road meets the Kentucky River (a point on the boundary between the David Williams property and the limestone quarry property) and continues south along the west bank of the Kentucky River to the mouth of Otter Creek. The boundary continues along the northerly bank of Otter Creek for a distance of approximately 70 meters (running southwest) then turns to the north and slightly west, and crosses the Kentucky River bottomland to the upland slope (so as to include Site 15MA139). The line then runs parallel to Hy 388 on the ridge slope, approximately along the 610-ft. contour, so as to include the Monkey Covington Site, the West house and the White Oak Spring and Station, until the park boundary is reached. The line then runs so as to include all of the bottomland property of the state park and the small parcel of privately owned (Williams) land between the park and the limestone quarry (so as to include the Bentley Housesite) to the beginning.

Boundary Justification: See continuation sheet.

The district boundary includes all of the preserved bottomland portion of the Boonesborough Town Plat and land immediately south of the town boundaries to the present mouth of Otter Creek. This boundary includes all of the known fort and town related sites as well as natural landmarks of historic significance and the Town Commons area.

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11. Form Prepared By
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Name/Title: Nancy O'Malley, Research Associate
Organization: Program for Cultural Resource Assessment Date: October 28, 1992
Street & Number: 101 American Bldg. Univ. of Ky. Telephone: 606-257-1944
City or Town: Lexington State: Ky ZIP: 40506-0100

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Landowners: Kentucky Department of Parks
Capitol Plaza Office Tower
Frankfort, Kentucky

Sarah Morgan
2283 Boonesborough Road
Richmond, Kentucky 40475

Ote Lisle West
115 Windsor Drive
Richmond, Kentucky 40475

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Section number 7 Ft. Boonesborough Townsite Historic District Page # 2
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functions include tobacco warehouses, a "wool factory", a tavern, town water sources and a public ferry. Although an ambitious plat of various sized lots was laid out as early as 1775, the town of Boonesborough failed to attain the size and complexity envisioned by its original founders. The town failed in its bid to become Kentucky's state capitol or Madison's county seat, and never grew beyond the stage of a small community whose sparse population periodically increased during tobacco harvesting season. By 1830, the town as a recognizable political entity had disappeared and the town commons was converted to farmland. However, despite its early demise, the town of Boonesborough was an extremely important site during the late eighteenth century when Kentucky was being settled.

The nomination of the district results from an intensive archaeological survey of the bottomland area of Fort Boonesborough State Park and privately owned land northeast from the park boundary to the mouth of Otter Creek (O'Malley 1990; Figure 1). The periods of significance extend from A. D. 1200-1400 and A. D. 1775-1840, and are represented by themes of prehistoric aboriginal and historic non-aboriginal archaeology, exploration/settlement, military, commerce, agriculture and transportation.

Sites within this district include one standing residential structure, and archaeological remains of 1) Fort Boonesborough, a stockaded enclosure of log cabins, 2) White Oak Spring Station, a residential station with associated spring, 3) six residential structural foundations, 4) two tobacco warehouses and 5) a Fort Ancient village. Other contributing elements include 1) a town spring enclosed in stone, 2) a public ferry associated with the remains of a stable and ferry house, and 3) Sycamore Hollow, a historically important locale which contained both fresh and mineral water springs, where historically significant events took place (Figures 1 and 2). Each site is described below:

Contributing Elements

1. The West house (Kentucky Heritage Council inventory no. MA-3; also known as the Lisle house) - This structure is built of logs covered with frame weatherboards on a dogtrot plan (Figure 3). Two rooms, each containing interior brick chimneys at the gable end, are connected by a wide dogtrot. A late nineteenth century rear one-story frame ell connects to the main block (Kubiak 1988: 51). The house was built in the first quarter of the nineteenth century. A title search of the property revealed that the house stands on property purchased by John Halley in 1795 from the town trustees of Boonesborough, apparently under some type of land contract. Halley was dispossessed of his property for nonpayment in 1825, and this property was sold at auction to Elkanah Bush (O'Malley 1990: 71-72). Bush operated a tavern and wool factory, one of which was probably housed in this structure. Either Halley or Bush may have built this structure.

2. The Fort site (15MA123) - This site was identified on the basis of primary written documentation and archaeological survey and test excavations. Judge Richard Henderson, a Virginia native who moved to North Carolina in his youth, organized the Transylvania Land Company with eight other backers. He sent Daniel Boone and a party of mostly white settlers and some slaves (including at least one African-American woman) in the spring of 1775 to blaze a trail and begin to settle a site for the capitol of a vast colony for which he had

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purchased a large tract from the Cherokees. Daniel Boone chose a site "situated in a plain on the south side of the river, wherein was a lick with two sulphur springs strongly impregnated" (Walker's Narrative in Ranck 1901: 165-166). The party observed a small herd of buffaloes grazing on the site when they arrived. Henderson followed with more settlers, arriving at the site of Boonesborough on April 20. Boone had already established an encampment of rough huts or lean-tos near Sycamore Hollow and his fellow settlers had laid off two-acre lots and were occupying them when Henderson arrived. Henderson "resolved to erect a fort on the opposite side of a large lick near the river bank which would place us at a distance of about 300 yards from the Other fort . . ." (Draper mss. 1CC32). The long axis of the fort enclosure ran parallel with the river so was oriented approximately 320 degrees. Most accounts agree that the gate or gates were in the long sides and that the front of the fort faced away from the river. On April 24, Henderson began to direct a survey of town lots, including one around a freshwater spring upstream from Sycamore Hollow. At least 66 quarter-acre in-lots were surveyed over the next few days; the first 54 lots were distributed by a drawing among the settlers. Henderson obtained four lots for the fort and its garden. One of the first buildings he erected was a powder magazine for gunpowder and arms. He envisioned his fort as rectangular in plan with four large corner blockhouses. The sides of the enclosure were to be formed by the outside walls of small log cabins with the intervening space between the structures to be filled with stockading. A central gate was to be placed on each long side. Eight cabins occupied each long side while five cabins were placed on each short end, for a total of thirty cabins, counting the blockhouses. He sketched a plan of his fort which was redrawn by James Hall around 1835 and reproduced in Ranck's 1901 history of Boonesborough (Figure 4). The full plan of the fort as envisioned by Henderson was not built during his tenure at Boonesborough but some cabins and at least two blockhouses were erected prior to 1778. Henderson lost title to his land in 1778 when the Virginia legislature determined that his purchase had been unlawful. Henderson was given a land grant near Nashville, Tennessee, as compensation and left Boonesborough.

By 1778, many of the original Transylvania settlers had given up hope of retaining title to the Boonesborough lots and had moved elsewhere. However, other settlers determined to petition the Virginia legislature to form a town. The year 1778 was a pivotal one in Boonesborough's history, not only because its legal status was in jeopardy, but also because of the hostilities of the Revolutionary War which culminated in an extended siege. Later, in the 1840s when Rev. John Dabney Shane was collecting reminiscences from numerous pioneers, he used this event to solicit descriptions of the fort as it looked on the eve of the siege. These descriptions provide useful information on how much of Henderson's original plan for the fort had been realized and what had been modified. Two of the blockhouses were not built until just before the siege, and a gate was located on the west side (O'Malley 1990: Figure 7; 18-21). Three cabins, one of which held Daniel Boone's gunsmith shop were built inside the enclosure along with a well, a flagstaff and the "ball battery". Another sketch shows the stockading running only for short sections at the corners and on either side of the west gate. The various sketches do not make clear how many cabins were actually built. Moses Boone's sketch indicates a possible total of 39 cabins between the blockhouses while Nathaniel Hart's sketch follows Henderson's original closely and shows only 26 cabins.

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Using a combination of screened, systematically placed shovel probes, 1 by 1 m test units and backhoe trenching, the following archaeological remains were documented. The field investigations indicated that late eighteenth-early nineteenth century artifacts, features and midden are concentrated in a 6300-meter area (60 by 115 m) around an early twentieth century stone monument which was erected by a local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution to memorialize Boonesborough (Figure 5). Site stratigraphy indicated that a cultural zone was buried approximately 30-43 cm below the present ground surface. Artifacts dating to the late eighteenth-early nineteenth century were consistently recovered from this zone. A total of 19 square meters and a backhoe trench were excavated in four areas of the site where shovel probes had indicated the probable presence of cultural features. Another backhoe trench was excavated to observe site stratigraphy. These excavations were named Blocks A, B, C, and C-extension.

Block A (5 square meters) contained the remains of a stone chimney and hard-packed interior dirt floor of one of the fort log cabins (Figure 6). Artifacts associated with this feature (#A-2) included hand wrought and cut nails, a kaolin clay tobacco pipestem, English creamware, English white salt glazed stoneware, gunflint fragments and heavily patinated green bottle glass as well as animal bone. The orientation and relationship of this chimney feature relative to other archaeological remains on the site suggests that it was a cabin located on the west wall of the fort enclosure.

Block B (8 square meters) and a short backhoe trench were excavated near a shovel probe that had contained very loose midden that was suggestive of a possible pit, ditch or other filled depression. The south wall of the trench indicated a shallow (42.5 cm thick) depression but no corresponding depression was noted in the north wall. Block B was excavated immediately south of the backhoe trench to determine if a stockade ditch was present. No evidence of a ditch was found but the units yielded a good sample of the archaeological midden and its artifactual contents associated with the site. Among the artifacts recovered from this block were small quantities of gun flints (including a French "honey flint"), lead bullets, English white salt-glazed stoneware, English creamware, redware, porcelaneous earthenware, olive green bottle glass and wrought and cut nails (O'Malley 1990).

Block C and another backhoe trench were excavated next to the south side of the stone wall surrounding the DAR monument. The purpose of this trench was to examine site stratigraphy in more detail; however, two postmolds were located in the south wall of the trench (Features #C-1 and C-2). These features originated from the late eighteenth-early nineteenth century ground surface and once held large posts (approximately 40 cm in diameter) set 2.14 m apart (Figure 7). Although insufficient excavation was completed to link these postmolds to a larger pattern, possible explanations for their presence is that they were part of a crudely built stockade, were support posts for a gate, or were part of internal features of the fort enclosure. Very little written evidence was found that specifically described the stockade at Boonesborough. Most observers simply noted that the stockade was 10-12 feet high, but did not describe it in any further detail. Nor was an account of how it was built located. Historical accounts do note that the stockade was built rather hastily just before the 1778 siege and that it only extended for short sections at the corners, around the gate (or gates) and between the cabins. Stockades erected around classic European style forts of the kind built at Fort Pitt and other military

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installations were massive affairs requiring a substantial ditch dug to hold numerous large upright timbers. Such a stockade may not have been deemed necessary at Boonesborough. One alternative to a massive stockade is to excavate holes for large posts spaced several feet apart, then pin horizontal crosspieces to which were attached many smaller trimmed trees set vertically. Such a stockade may have been built at Fort Independence in South Carolina (Bastian 1982: 67). Given the fact that the stockade at Ft. Boonesborough only extended for short sections, transportation of large logs was an onerous task, and both labor and time were in short supply, the defensive structure at the fort may have been built much less strongly than standard stockades, but still have appeared formidable.

Another possible explanation for the posts is to serve as supports for a large gate of the sort described for Strode's Station. William Clinkenbeard, a pioneer settler at Strode's Station in Clark county, described his station's gates as being built like "a water gate, on pivots, with the lower half the heaviest, so that it kept down, made so that it could be propped up with a stick, and wagons and sleds, wood, and corn, or anything could be taken in. Puncheons must have been about ten feet long at least and two inches thick" (Beckner 1928:99). Large posts may have been used as "pivots". If the posts served this purpose, their location relative to the distribution of midden and other features suggests the presence of a gate in the south wall (a short side). However, none of the plans or descriptions of the fort found during documentary research mention a south gate. Still another explanation is that the posts served as supports for an interior feature of the fort. Two fort plans drawn by pioneers indicate cabins and other construction features inside the enclosure (Figure 4).

Block C-extension (2 square meters) was placed over the shovel probe yielding large quantities of animal bone within dark brown, greasy midden. This excavation yielded the remains of a campfire or surface hearth containing numerous bones of domestic and wild animals (Feature #C-3). Approximately half to two-thirds of the hearth was excavated. Analysis of the bones recovered from the feature indicated the presence of black bear, white-tailed deer, elk, and bison representing wild mammals, and cow and pig representing domestic mammals. Turkey and channel catfish were also present. These species were all mentioned in various accounts as being part of the pioneer diet. The high proportion of wild meats is particularly important since pioneers relied heavily on hunting game for the meat portion of their diet. However, they also brought cows, pigs and horses along to form the base of their livestock raising efforts. The absence of horse in the faunal analysis is expected since horses were used for riding and hauling and were rarely eaten.

The discovery of well preserved cultural features and associated artifact-bearing midden in the fort sites indicates a high probability of other fort-related deposits and features also still preserved.

3. Nathaniel Hart housesite (15MA133; Kentucky Heritage Council structure inventory no. MA-2) - At the time of survey in 1987, the house associated with this site was still standing; it burned down in 1989 (Figure 9). It stood on private property adjacent to the park boundary and faces State Highway 388 (the old Boonesborough-Richmond turnpike and following part of the original course of the Log Lick Trace). The house was of log construction, later covered with weatherboarding. Kubiak (1988: 149-150) described the house as being:

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composed of two square log pens separated by a frame dogtrot, with an ell at the rear. V-notches at the corners connect the logs beneath the weatherboards. An extension of the roof forms an overhanging porch that shades and protects the two doors and two windows in the front facade. An earlier configuration may have been a saddlebag floor plan; this is suggested by an exterior firebox on one of the two stone chimneys. In spite of many alterations to the exterior, the interior is intact. A stone fireplace with the original mantel remains. Not all of the second-story rooms connect; a stairway behind one door on the front porch leads to two rooms above the dogtrot portion of the house, while another stairway at the rear leads to an upstairs room in the ell.

Nathaniel Hart was one of the original proprietors and partners in the Transylvania Land Company and accompanied Richard Henderson's party when they first came to Boonesborough. He was in possession of this site as early as 1775 although he apparently never gained legal title to it. He may have been responsible for constructing part of the house but its initial construction date has not been unequivocally determined. It is known that the house stood across the road from White Oak Spring Station which Hart began improving in 1775 and in which he was apparently living when he was killed by Indians in 1782. After Hart's death, his family remained at White Oak Spring Station for an unknown amount of time but eventually left the area. The town trustees were in possession of the station and house lots which were sold to John Halley in 1795, then repossessed in 1825 and sold to Thomas Lindsay, a town trustee. The deeds do not specifically indicate the presence of a house but do contain references to "improvements and appurtenances" which probably pertain to the residence. Lindsay lived in the house until 1842 when he sold it and 171 acres to William D. McCord, possibly to extinguish mortgage obligations he owed to Samuel Halley and Charles Lindsay. The house was transferred to William Bentley and Andrew J. Batterton in 1846 and then to Henry Lisle in 1853. It remained in the Lisle family until 1881, and eventually passed to the Lackey heirs who sold it to Dr. David Williams, the grandfather of the present owners (O'Malley 1990: 63-65). Although the superstructure has been destroyed, the foundations are still present. Abundant archaeological midden was also documented around the house, although no late eighteenth century artifacts were found. The presence of the foundation and associated deposits indicates that this site has a high potential for containing intact early historic deposits.

4. White Oak Spring Station (15MA131) - This site is located on an upland bench on the west side of Hy 388 directly across from the Nathaniel Hart housesite. The site served as a landmark in an 1811 survey drawn by John Croke, a Madison County surveyor. An overlay of this survey to the scale of the Ford topographic quadrangle map confirms the location of White Oak Spring Station at this site (Figure 10). At the time of survey, it was covered in dense briars, vines and small trees that severely impeded survey efforts; however, archaeological midden and a few fragments of mortar was documented. The White Oak Spring still flows at the site.

The history of this site begins in 1775 when Nathaniel Hart built a small cabin and planted apple trees here. Later in the same year, this cabin was burned by Indians and Hart moved back into the fort until 1779 when he began

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building a larger station. The station housed Hart's family as well as a group of Low Dutch settlers who arrived in 1781. Hart's son indicated that the station had as many as 100 people in residence prior to 1782 but had dwindled to only three fighting men (and perhaps other uncounted women and children) in August of that year. The year of the site's abandonment was not determined but it probably did not persist past 1800. The spring, however, continued to be an important water source used by various owners and tenants.

5. Tobacco Warehouse Site (15MA41) - This site was identified as the site of two tobacco warehouses built around 1788 and in 1810, respectively. Its identification was based on an informant's memory of a large barn-like structure with stone foundations that still stood on the site in the early twentieth century. It also corresponds to in-lots 33 and 34 which contained the warehouses. Shingle fragments, mortar, windowpane glass, brick, creamware, glazed redware, various cut nails and other historic items as well as an alignment of stone were documented.

Documentary evidence of the warehouses dates to 1788 when John Halley was summoned to court to state whether he would build a tobacco warehouse at Boonesborough. Boonesborough's designation as a tobacco inspection point around the same time indicates that the first warehouse was indeed built. Other county court orders indicate that a second warehouse was erected in 1810, probably by Green Clay who purchased the site in 1809 from the Boonesborough Trustees. This second warehouse was described in an 1810 inspection report as a new building. The earlier warehouse was described in an 1807 inspection as a weather-boarded and shingled facility capable of holding 130 hogshead of tobacco. The 1810 report described one of the buildings as "one stone body warehouse well shingled with joint shingles", measuring 100 feet long and 33 1/2 feet wide. A 30-foot section was open; the building stood on stone pillars. A door hung on iron hooks allowed access. This building was judged suitable for the weighing scales. The other warehouse also on stone pillars stood adjacent and measured 100 feet by 40 feet. Both warehouses had earthen floors (O'Malley 1990:66-67). One of these warehouses survived into the 20th century. It burned or was damaged and the frame superstructure was replaced; the rebuilt structure was torn down in 1940.

5a. The Tobacco Warehouse site also contains a very well preserved prehistoric Indian component dating to the Fort Ancient Period (A.D. 1200-1400). It is characterized by abundant cultural midden and features containing shell and limestone-tempered ceramics, mussel shell, animal bone, and chert tools and debitage. The site has never been plowed and is exceptionally well preserved.

6. Taylor Site (15MA135) - This residential site is located along Hy 388 next to the Tobacco Warehouse Site on in-lots 23, 24, 25, or 26. It was identified by archaeological remains, documentary evidence and informant information that a log house had once stood here. The house faced the road and was built to accommodate the slope of the elevated knoll on which it and the tobacco warehouses stood. Because of the slope, the front of the house required a stairway entrance while the rear of the first story was at ground level. It was later weatherboarded and served as a residence for various owners and tenants into the twentieth century. Its construction date was not specifically determined but it was used as a landmark on an 1811 survey by John Crooke who indicated its occupant as Thomas Taylor. Thomas Taylor appears in the 1810 Federal census of

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Boonesborough with his wife, six children and two slaves.

Artifacts and cultural midden are present in abundance in this site. The artifacts date mostly to the nineteenth century but the recovery of pearlware fragments indicates a possible late eighteenth date for the site. These also appears to be high potential for cultural features and structural foundations.

7. Halley Site (15MA134) - This residential site is located on the west side of Hy 388 directly across from the Taylor Site. It once contained a stone house or detached kitchen, a frame house and a servants' quarters. John Halley acquired the site in 1822 and Halley family tradition states that he built the first house here. John Halley came to Boonesborough from Fairfax County, Virginia. He apparently made a trip as early as 1777 since he is listed as having been captured by Indians at or near Boonesborough in that year. After his release sometime prior to 1795 (probably around the end of the Revolutionary War), he returned to Boonesborough and established residence there. He persuaded his nephew, Samuel, to move to Boonesborough at an unknown date. Samuel Halley built a frame house here in the nineteenth century; this structure stood until 1968-1972 when it burned. Halley was an active businessman, who left a journal detailing two trips in 1789 and 1791 from Boonesborough to New Orleans to sell commodities such as tobacco, flour, meal, bacon and lard. He also was involved in dozens of lawsuits having to do with promissory notes, labor agreements and trespass. He owned numerous lots in Boonesborough as well as land outside the town claims. Various deeds dating to the 1820s mention lots Halley purchased from the town trustees in 1795 that were repossessed some 30 years later. This suggests that Halley controlled much of the town's land and probably played a very important role in how the town developed or failed to. Halley died in 1838 and was buried nearby.

The area where the houses stood is densely overgrown in small trees, briars and underbrush. Piles of foundation debris mark the locations of three structures. A depression is visible where the root cellar was located. Shovel probes documented a thick midden accumulation and abundant artifacts dating from the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century to well into the twentieth century. The stone structure was dismantled in the 1960s or 1970s and the stones moved to Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond.

8. Bentley Site (15MA132) - This site is located on an abandoned road that once diverged from Hy 388 and led to the Boonesborough Ferry at the Kentucky River. Partially standing remains of a large two story brick house are still present at this site (Figure 11). Architectural details are much obscured due to its ruinous condition. The site's owner reported that she removed a Rococo style mantel from one of the rooms. Rococo architectural elements were particularly popular in the late eighteenth century and probably persisted into the early nineteenth century in some areas. According to one of the deeds pertaining to this site, a second house once stood on the site; however, archaeological survey did not locate a separate structure. Survey was impeded by dense undergrowth and trees. Although the site is locally known as the Bentley house, it was probably built by the Stevens family who came to Boonesborough in the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century. T. H. Stevens sold the property to the Bentley family in 1900. A "Thomas Stephens" was listed on the 1810 Federal Census for Boonesborough; he may have built and occupied this house. His household contained himself (45 years or older), a woman between 26 and 45 years of age,

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ten people ranging in age from under 10 years to 26 years, and nine slaves. This house is shown on a map drawn by Thomas Hinde; although this map is undated, it appears to represent the town of Boonesborough as it looked in the 1810s or 1820s (Figure 12). The construction date of the house was not specifically determined but it was certainly present prior to the Civil War and possibly as early as 1810. Artifacts recovered from the midden around the foundations include pearlware which dates from 1780 to 1830.

9. Monkey Covington Site (15MA138) - This residential site is located on the west side of Hy 388 outside the park boundaries and near where Otter Creek flows close to the present road. It consists of drylaid stone masonry foundations with a stone chimney on the rear wall (Figure 13). The foundations abut the ridge slope which rises steeply behind the house. The house faces the road. The chimney has been altered by the addition of a stovepipe. The site is just outside the original town claims of Boonesborough but the Thomas Hinde map indicates that a tavern and residence belonging to Elkanah Bush probably corresponds to this location (Figure 12). The stone construction is consistent with an early nineteenth century date. It was occupied in the 1940s by an African-American tenant named Monkey Covington after whom the site was named. Most of the yard area around the house has been covered or modified by modern road improvements and realignments. These modifications, the dense undergrowth and the presence of abundant quantities of rocks precluded shovel probing on the site.

10. Unnamed house site (15MA139) - This site is located south of the Monkey Covington Site on the west side of Hy 388. It contains a stone-enclosed spring and the stone foundations of at least two structures. Heavy leaf fall obscured the site's foundations. Realignment of the road in front of the house has removed the original frontage and much of the houseyard. Like the Monkey Covington house site, this site is very close to the steep ridge slope that rises behind it. The Thomas Hinde map indicates that one of the Halleys had a house in this approximate location (Figure 12). John Halley may have lived here as he purchased a tract probably containing this site in 1789 from William and Susannah Hays.

11. Town Spring - This spring is located in a wooded picnic area southwest of the park visitor's center. It occasionally flows in very wet weather but its opening is blocked by large pieces of limestone. Shovel probes around the spring indicate that water was once ponded in a small depression at the head of the water source, probably by means of a stone wall. Cut limestone blocks are buried in the ground a few meters downstream of the spring's source and other large limestone blocks were observed in and around the feature. This location corresponds to the "spring lot" mentioned in Richard Henderson's journal and shown on the town plat. A local informant also reported that cedar posts were dug up near this spring around the beginning of the twentieth century. These posts may have been from a fence enclosing the lot.

12. Sycamore Hollow - This creek valley was a very important landmark in Boonesborough, located in the heart of the town plat next to the fort site. It was wooded and contained both fresh and mineral water springs. Originally, the hollow contained a "lick" or seep which collected mineral and fresh water from

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the springs and a small creek flowing through the valley. The lick was drained, the tributary was rechannelled and a well was built around a sulphur spring sometime prior to 1791. In 1797, specifications were issued for the repair of the well. These read as follows:

The wall to be cleared as low as it was before; the wall to be made good with stone and mortar two feet above the floor, a post and rail fence 12 feet square round the well, posts of black locust and rails of locust or walnut, posts to be eight inches square set three inches in the ground, first rail to set in the posts under the floor. A trough 40 feet long, eight inches wide & 12 inches wide in the clear. Bottom & sides 3 inches thick to be set level on the ground and let through the wall so as to receive the water and convey it from the well. The posts & rails to be four feet above the floor. Inside between the wall and fence to be filled with dirt and well rammed nearly as high as the top of the wall. Rails to be 4 inches thick let through the posts by a tenant [tenon] 4 by 3 inches. The two top rails all round pined [pinned] through the posts with an Inch black locust pinn. The floor to be laid 2 feet thick with stone...

Local informants reported that the well was still visible in the early twentieth century but was covered with silt deposited by successive floods (Figure 14). The well has not been identified archaeologically but it is likely that the backhoe trenching carried out in the hollow simply was not in the correct location. Additional backhoe trenching would be necessary to locate it exactly but its general location is known from a survey that used it as a corner. The area appears to be undisturbed and it is very likely that the spring facility is still preserved beneath the ground.

13. Boonesborough Ferry/Campground II Site (15MA128) - A public ferry was established in Boonesborough in 1779 when Richard Callaway was first granted permission to operate the business. This ferry crossed the Kentucky River between Madison County to Clark county. A road diverged from Ky 388 and led to the ferry, passing the Bentley house site. A "ferry house" and stable are shown on opposite sides of the ferry road on Thomas Hinde's map (Figure 12). The ferry operator is indicated as Sidebottom who, with Robert Clarke, purchased the ferry operation from the Callaway heirs sometime after Richard Callaway's death in 1780 and probably after 1788 when the Callaway heirs were regranted the right to run the ferry. The ferry changed hands several times but operated into the twentieth century, lapsing only after the Memorial Bridge linking Madison and Clark counties was built. Although the river bank is much modified where the ferry boat was tied up, archaeological evidence of the stable was found in the old section of the Park's campground. The site has been impacted by the construction of roads and pads for camping sites. It corresponds to a building that was still standing when aerial photographs were taken of the area for the generation of topographic quadrangle maps. A local informant remembered a barn-like structure in this general location. The Hinde map indicates that a ferry house was on the north side of the ferry road while a stable was on the south side. The Campground II Site probably corresponds to the stable. The Ferry House was not located archaeologically and may be partially or entirely destroyed by the

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large gravel quarry that operates north of the park.

Non-Contributing Elements

1. 5 modern buildings - Park's visitors' center
Park supervisor's house
Park maintenance compound
Park campground complex (including miniature golf
course)
Barn on West property
2. 9 prehistoric sites
3. 1 lock and dam facility - This facility is not considered significant under the themes for this district nomination but it is significant under other themes and periods of significance.

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site plans, regional variability in various artifact data categories, subsistence patterns in this section of the district, and possible connections of this site with other Middle Fort Ancient sites.

Archaeology - historic non-aboriginal

From an archaeological perspective, the district is remarkably well preserved. The residential sites associated with the town are essentially undisturbed and have never been plowed or subjected to activities that severely impact their archaeological deposits. While the fort site has been partially eroded away, intact archaeological midden and features still remain in pristine context. The site where the tobacco warehouses stood is particularly well preserved, having never been plowed and presently maintained in grass. The springs associated with the town are either protected by alluvial silt (those in Sycamore Hollow) or, in the case of the "spring lot", are maintained in grass. The single significant standing structure in the district has been well maintained by its owners. The historic archaeological remains in the district are not only well preserved but they also date to a narrow time frame for the most part which reduces the amount of data ambiguity and is conducive to analysis with a high degree of reliability because modern intrusive remains are limited or lacking. For instance, the fort site was abandoned in the early nineteenth century and flooding of the Kentucky River resulted in the archaeological deposits being buried deeply enough to escape damage by later agricultural cultivation. Flooding has also deposited alluvium in Sycamore Hollow, burying important mineral and freshwater springs and wells that exist there. The residential sites are similarly well preserved with deep deposits of cultural midden, much of which is probably stratified so that earlier deposits occur at deeper levels than later ones. The lack of cultivation on most of the sites in the District is the single most important factor in their post-depositional preservation. The district is also important archaeologically because the physical remains of other similar forts and early towns such as those in Lexington, Louisville or Harrodsburg are generally lacking or heavily impacted by modern urban construction. Thus, the Boonesborough Townsite Historic District is unique in its preservation and pristine contextual nature.

Exploration/Settlement and Military

These two areas of significance are inextricably intertwined in Boonesborough's history because Kentucky was settled during the Revolutionary War. The fort and town of Boonesborough was integral to the initial settlement attempts in Kentucky which was on the western edge of the American frontier in 1775. Throughout the Revolutionary War, Fort Boonesborough served as a strategic location to collect militia, launch punitive raids against the Indians and to shelter settlers moving into Kentucky via the Cumberland Gap. It served as a central location for people to receive mail, hear the latest news from the eastern colonies, and meet family members or friends. Although it was originally planned as a royal colony, complete with articles of government, the Revolutionary War broke the ties to the English Crown and Boonesborough's founders left, leaving the task of establishing a town to others. This was initiated in the midst of war when the charter was granted by the Virginia Legislature in 1779. The fort at Boonesborough survived numerous Indian attacks and one prolonged siege during the war; had it been abandoned or destroyed by the British and their Indian allies, the history of the

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American frontier might have been quite different. The extant archaeological remains at the Fort Site have the potential to yield important information about how the fort was built, and its final layout and internal features, as well as provide artifacts and features that relate to the daily lives of the settlers who stayed there. The artifacts from the fort and other sites in the district also have the potential to provide specific information on the progression of development of the townsite during the exploration/settlement period as well as after the Revolutionary War.

Agriculture and Commerce

The district is also significant under the historic themes of agriculture and commerce. A tobacco inspection point was established at Boonesborough in the late eighteenth century and two warehouses were built. Boonesborough played an important role in the commerce of tobacco, a staple crop in Kentucky even to this day. Its status as a tobacco inspection point was a major reason the town survived into the nineteenth century but was not sufficient reason to fuel the development of a large urban settlement. However, for the early years while Kentucky's agricultural and commercial systems were being developed, such sites were pivotal in the inspection, storage and eventual sale of this staple crop. Boonesborough was also a "jumping off" point for flatboats loaded with Kentucky commodities destined for the New Orleans market. Thus, the area served as a place to gather together agricultural and other products from local and area inhabitants and then sell these products on a larger market. The Tobacco Warehouse Site has the potential to provide specific information about the layout and features of early historic warehouses. Other residential sites in the district also have the potential to yield data relating to these themes since these sites were developed and occupied by settlers who made their living by agricultural and commercial pursuits. Artifacts and features at these sites have the potential to reflect the production and processing of specific agricultural products formed the basis for the local cash economy.

Transportation

Finally, the historic theme of transportation pertains to Boonesborough. Located on the Kentucky River, the town of Boonesborough was the launchpoint of commercial excursions to New Orleans in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century. The New Orleans market was very important to Kentucky in her early settlement years because of the difficulties in transporting goods east over the Appalachians Mountains. It was more profitable to load a flat boat and travel down the Ohio River to the Mississippi River and on to New Orleans where goods such as tobacco, bacon, flour and meal could be sold. Boonesborough was admirably located to gather in commodities produced in the surrounding counties and its location on the Kentucky River linked it to the Ohio River and downstream markets. The Boonesborough Ferry/Campground II Site relates specifically to the transportation theme but other sites relate indirectly to this theme as well in terms of its relationship to agriculture and commerce.

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UTM Coordinates

| | Zone | Easting | Northing |
|---|-----------|---------------|----------------|
| E | <u>16</u> | <u>740440</u> | <u>4196000</u> |
| F | <u>16</u> | <u>740060</u> | <u>4195570</u> |
| G | <u>16</u> | <u>739700</u> | <u>4195760</u> |
| H | <u>16</u> | <u>739960</u> | <u>4195850</u> |
| I | <u>16</u> | <u>739950</u> | <u>4196540</u> |
| J | <u>16</u> | <u>740410</u> | <u>4197300</u> |

Figures for Fort Boonesborough Townsite Historic District

1. Topographic map showing sites
2. Park map showing sites
3. Photograph of West house
4. Fort plans
5. Fort site map showing features
6. Feature A-2 (stone chimney base in the Fort Site)
7. Feature C-1 (postmold in the Fort Site)
8. Feature C-3 (hearth with animal bones in Fort Site)
9. Nathaniel Hart house
10. Map overlay of Crooke survey
11. Photograph of Bentley house
12. Hinde map
13. Photograph of Monkey Covington house foundation
14. 1921 photograph of mineral spring in Sycamore Hollow

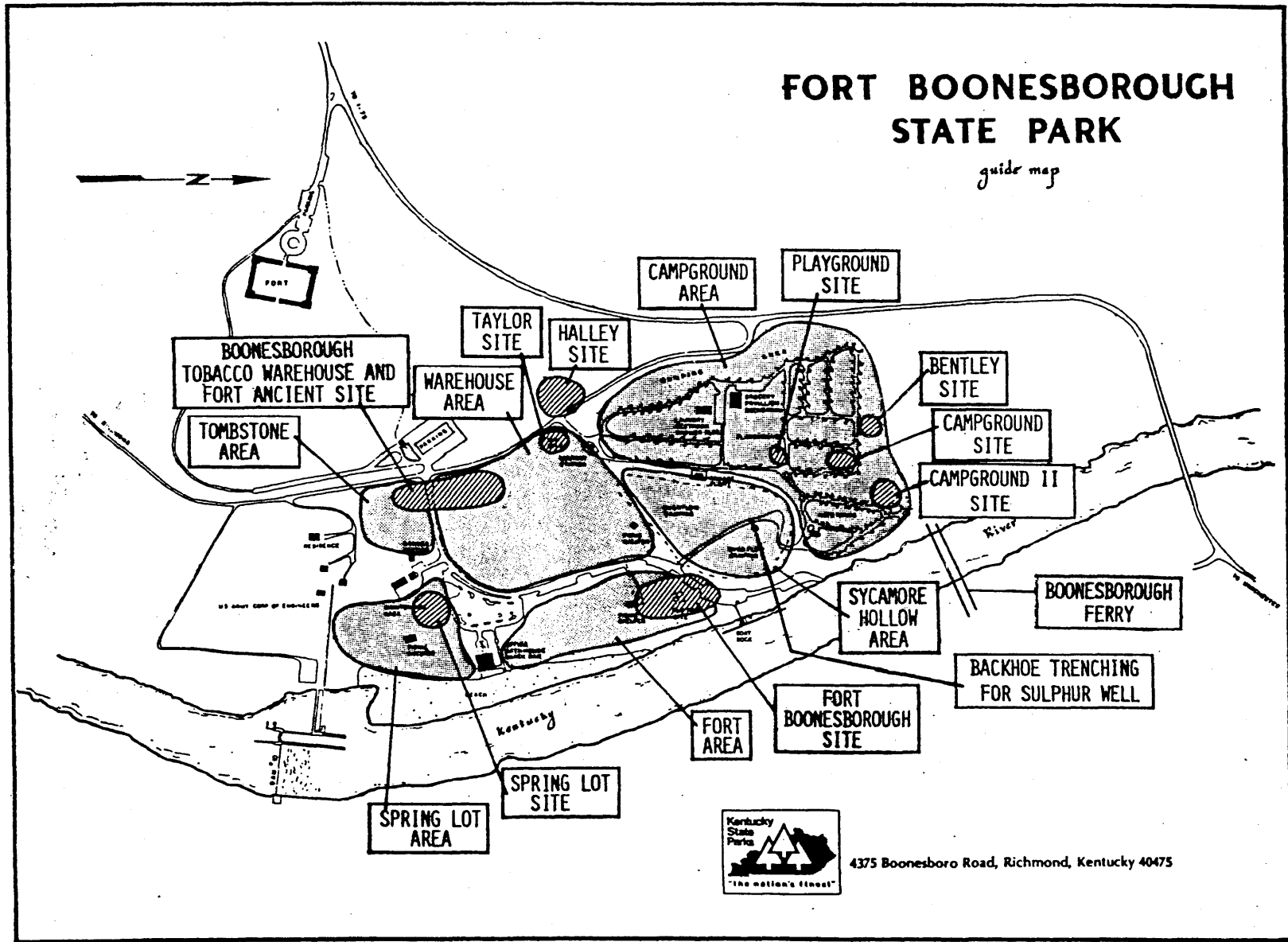
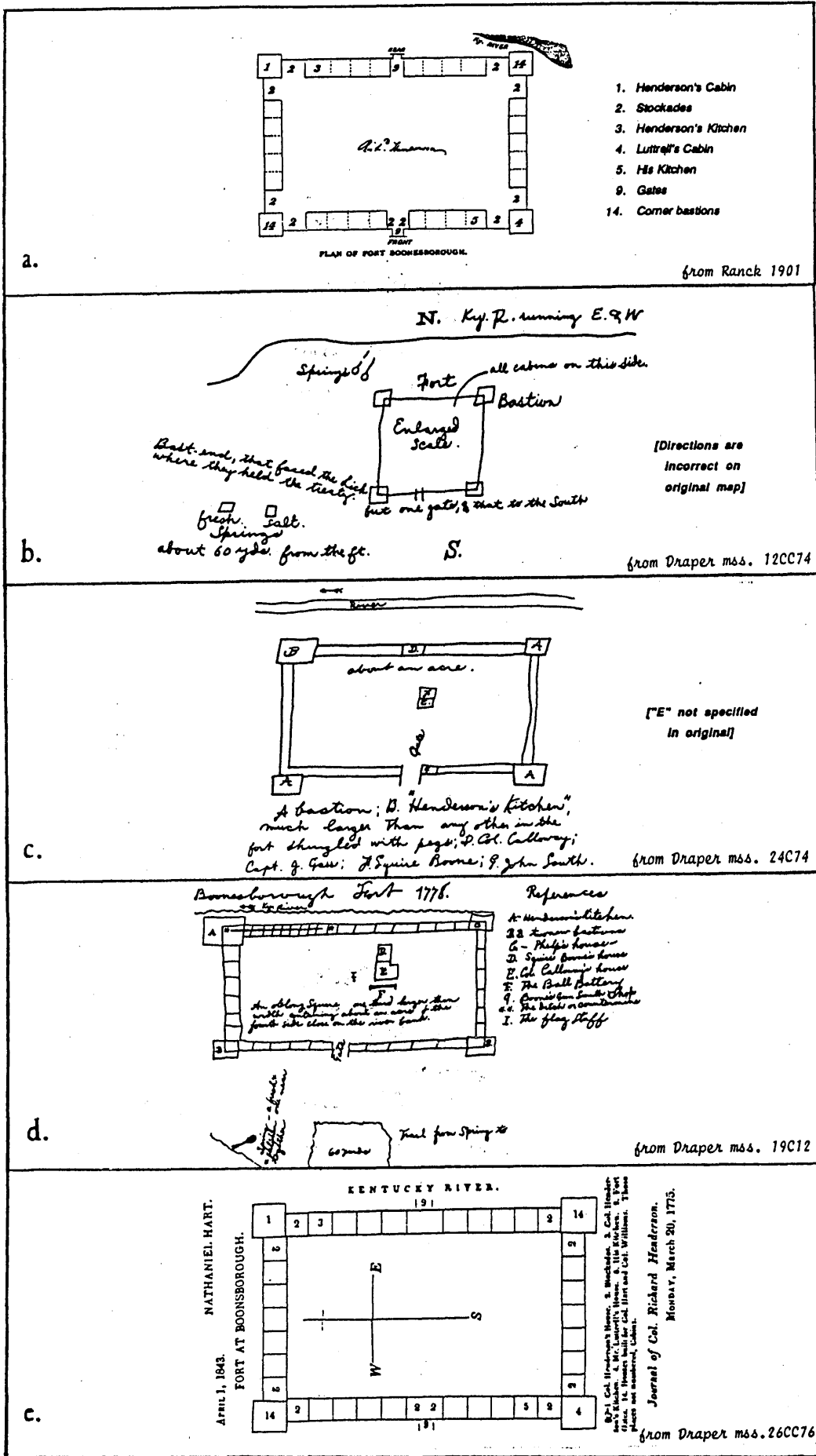


Figure 2. Survey areas and documented sites in the State Park.



4
Figure 4. Various plans of Fort Boonesborough.

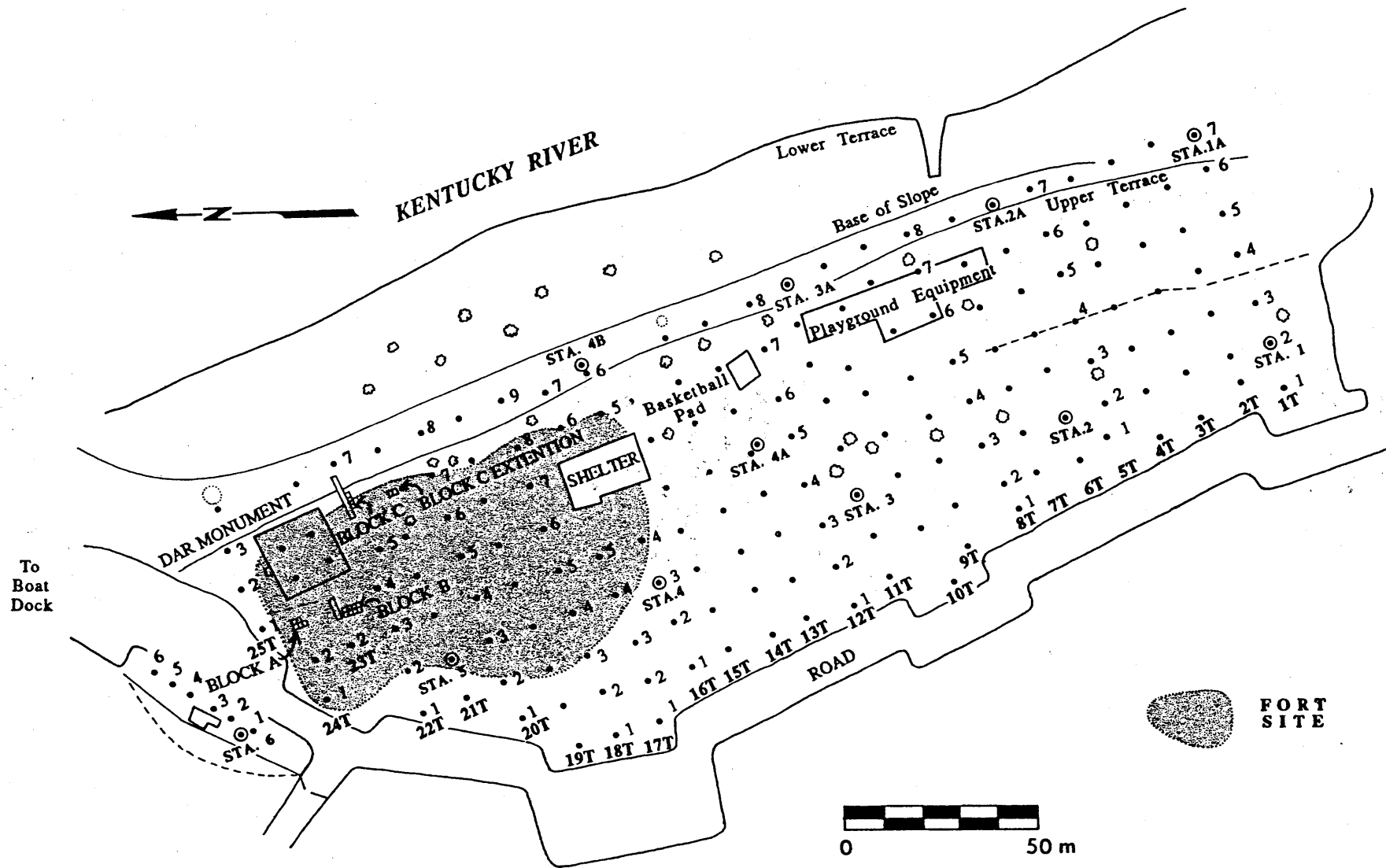


Figure 5.. Fort area showing Fort site, numbered shovel probes and excavations.

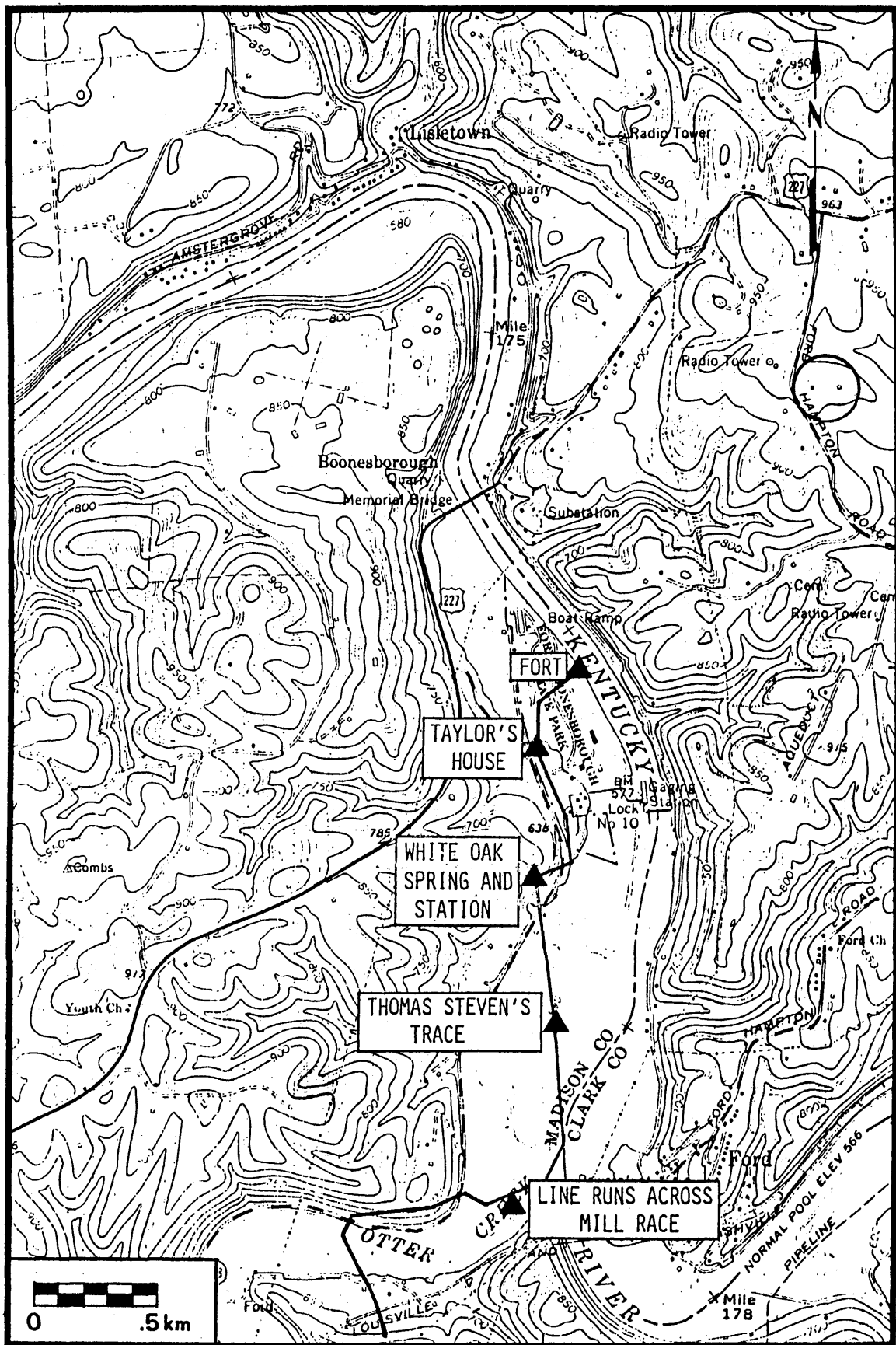


Figure 10. John Crooke's Log Lick Trace survey showing Boonesborough landmarks.

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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 94000269

Date Listed: 4-14-94

| Property Name | County | State |
|---|---------------|--------------|
| Fort Boonesborough Townsite Historic District | Madison | KY |

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

The nomination is amended to delete Criterion C. Criterion C was mistakenly typed onto the nomination form. Donna Coleman of the Kentucky SHPO Office was consulted with regard to this issue.

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
| <u><i>Janet E. Townsend</i></u> | <u>4-14-94</u> |
| Signature of the Keeper | Date of Action |

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

DISTRIBUTION:
National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)