NPS Form 10-900 (Oct. 1990) RECEIVED

1596 OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

DEC 2 8 1993

### National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

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

	•		
1. Name of Property			
historic name Miller, Isa	ac, Farm		<del></del>
other names/site number0.M. Roger	rs Farm SP-17		
2. Location			
street & number N side St. Rt.	48, 9/10's mi. W o	f Fairfield NA not	for publication
city or townFairfield			vicinity
state Kentucky code K			•
3. State/Federal Agency Certification			
Historic Places and meets the procedural and processing the meets of does not meet the National Register and process. It is not to be processed to be processe	continuation sheet for additional common Morgan, Executive /SHPO 12-17-9 Date	property be considered significant omments.)	
Signature of certifying official/Title	Date	<del></del>	
State or Federal agency and bureau			_
4. National Park Service Certification			
I hereby pertify that the property is:	//Signature of the Ke	eper	Date of Action
entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.	Tatty	. Chriman	Feb. 1, 199.
☐ determined eligible for the  National Register  ☐ See continuation sheet.	1 10		· ,
determined not eligible for the National Register.			
removed from the National Register.			
Other, (explain:)		,	

5. Classification						
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of R (Do not include p	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)			
	☐ building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing			
public-local	☑ district	10	0	buildings		
☐ public-State ☐ public-Federal	☐ site ☐ structure	1	0	sites		
	□ object	1	0	structure:		
•		0	0	objects		
		12	0	Total		
Name of related multiple pr (Enter "N/A" if property is not part	roperty listing of a multiple property listing.)	Number of co	ontributing resources al Register	previously listed		
Historic Resources	of Spencer County, K	Centucky	0			
6. Function or Use						
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)		Current Function (Enter categories from				
DOMESTIC: single	dwelling	DOMESTIC: :	single dwelling	3		
DOMESTIC: seconda:	ry structure	DOMESTIC: S	secondary struc	cture		
AGRICULTURE/SUBSI	STENCE: processing	AGRICULTUR	E/SUBSISTENCE:	processing		
AGRICULTURE/SUBSI	STENCE: animal facil.	AGRICULTUR	E/SUBSISTENCE:	animal fac		
AGRICULTURE/SUBSI	STENCE: storage	AGRICULTUR	E/SUBSISTENCE:	storage		
AGRICULTURE/SUBSI	STENCE: ag. outbldg.	AGRICULTUR	E/SUBSISTENCE:	ag. outblo		
		VACANT/NOT	IN USE			
7. Description						
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)	**************************************	Materials (Enter categories fro	om instructions)			
OTHER: central-pas	sage-plan dwelling	foundationS'	TONE: limestone	9		
OTHER: double-crib	barn	wallsW	OOD: weatherboa	ard		
			ETAL: aluminum			
		roof M	ETAL: tin			

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

Isaac Miller Farm Spencer County, Kentucky Name of Property County and State 8. Statement of Significance **Applicable National Register Criteria** Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions) (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.) AGRICULTURE X 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 Period of Significance distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction. 1840-1940 D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history. Criteria Considerations Significant Dates (Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.) N/A Property is: ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes. Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) ☐ **B** removed from its original location. N/A C a birthplace or grave. **Cultural Affiliation** □ D a cemetery. N/A ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure. ☐ F a commemorative property. Architect/Builder ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years. unknown Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.) 9. Major Bibliographical References **Bibilography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.) Previous documentation on file (NPS): Primary location of additional data: preliminary determination of individual listing (36 State Historic Preservation Office CFR 67) has been requested ☐ Other State agency previously listed in the National Register ☐ Federal agency previously determined eligible by the National □ Local government

Register

☐ designated a National Historic Landmark ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_

- □ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

Kentucky Heritage Council

Isaac Miller Farm	Spencer County, Kentucky
Name of Property	County and State
10. Geographical Data	
Acreage of Property 237 acres	
UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)	
1 1 6 6 4 1 1 6 0 4 2 0 1 0 0 4 Northing 2 1 6 4 0 7 6 0 4 2 0 1 8 8 0	3 1 6 6 3 9 6 2 0 4 2 0 1 1 0 0  Zone Easting Northing 4 1 6 6 4 0 3 0 0 4 2 0 6 0 0
Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)	☐ See continuation sheet
Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)	
11. Form Prepared By	
name/titleGibson Worsham, Architect	
organizationCultural Resource Management	Institute June 23, 1993
street & number 3145 Yellow Sulphur Road	telephone (703) 552-4730
city or town Christiansburg	state Virginia zip code 24073
Additional Documentation	
Submit the following items with the completed form:	
Continuation Sheets	
Maps	
A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the p	roperty's location.
A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having	ng large acreage or numerous resources.
Photographs	
Representative black and white photographs of the p	roperty.
Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)	
Property Owner	
(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)	raarat and Payfield Houghlin
nameAnna and Charles Cornell and Man	Tydiet and Kaylield nodghlin
street & number	telephone
city or townBloomfield	state Kentucky zip code 40008

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

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

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Isaac Miller House Spencer County, Kentucky

#### 7. NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Summary Description

The Isaac Miller Farm is located 1.1 miles northwest of the town of Fairfield, on the southern edge of Spencer County, Kentucky. The farm occupies 237 acres on the northeast side of State Route 48. The frame, two-story house and the subsidiary domestic and farm buildings are grouped together near the road. The large, five-bay, central-passage-plan dwelling is said to date from 1862, later than the major secondary structures, which include a log double-crib barn, a log meathouse, and a stone and log springhouse. These appear to date from the antebellum period. A stone chimney survives behind the house from a one-story, saddlebag-plan building, possibly a two-room slave house of frame or log construction. Later related buildings include a frame wash house or other outbuilding, privy, shed, shop/garage, chicken house, granary, and tobacco barn. These buildings probably date from the late nineteenth to early twentieth centuries. Most of the structures are in fair to good condition. The proposed district consists of 237 acres with ten contributing buildings, one contributing site, and one contributing structure.

#### Description

The house, not the first on the site, is a two-story, frame building with a five-bay, central-passage plan. The principal facade faces southwest, towards the road. An offset, two-story ell extends to the rear near the northwest end of the house. Interior end chimneys rise at each end of the main section and midway in the ell roof, and a partially exterior stone chimney of modest proportions rises with a brick flue at the northeast end of the ell. The roof extends over all of the gable ends on returned eaves, and the entire building rests on a coursed rubble stone foundation. The entire building has been sheathed since the 1970s with aluminum siding.

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Isaac Miller House Spencer County, Kentucky

The principal facade is symmetrically arranged with a door in the center flanked by sidelights and surmounted by a transom and a bracketed entablature. Two windows are centered in the wall above, giving the second story a sixbay form. The windows contain one-over-one sashes. The box cornice is decorated with brackets. An apparently original, one-story porch extends across the central three bays, supported on paired posts. The northwest side facade is treated as a secondary front, with an entrance and small porch in the central section of the ell. The fenestration is irregularly spaced and corresponds to the interior room arrangements. The southeast end of the main section is blank, while the southeast side of the ell and the northeast (rear) of the main section are completely sheltered on the first floor by a plain porch, enclosed at the end of the The house is in good condition.

The domestic space is defined by trees and lawn and by a group of domestic outbuildings and an outbuilding site. A straight drive from the main road extends past the southeast side of the house toward the barn. A weatherboarded log springhouse stands at the edge of the road to the west and forward of the house. The building is placed into a sloping bank and stands on a substantial stone cellar containing the spring. A covered porch at the northeast end of the springhouse covers a open stone stair which leads down to an apsidal stone spring enclosure. The northwest side wall of the porch is made by a continuation of the logs from the adjacent structure. From the enclosure cool water flows into the main cellar storage room with a door near the steps and a vertical-barred vent in the northwest end. No troughs or other channels are now visible. The log room above was apparently also used for storage, and is reached from a door in the porch, also with a vent in the opposite gable end. The springhouse is in good condition.

A log meathouse stands to the north of the house, near the north corner of the ell. The weatherboarded log pen features a shallow roof, which projects over the southwest front to shelter the door. At the east corner of the house

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Isaac Miller House Spencer County, Kentucky

stands a small, one-room outbuilding of undetermined original function. Perhaps it served the role of wash house, but it appears to have been altered by the addition of stone hearths for washtubs. The weatherboarded frame structure features windows in both the sides and a off-center door in the northwest gable end. The eaves and rake boards are ornamented with sawn, scalloped edges. A flue, supported on the ceiling joists, rises from the southeast end. Both buildings are in good condition.

Just behind (northeast of) the wash house stands a onestory stone chimney with back-to-back fireplaces, of a smaller size than that usually associated with principal kitchens. From the square-topped form it clearly served in the central interior of a two-room or saddlebag outbuilding, most likely a slave house. A 1981 survey said the building had been built of logs, appaently based on information from the then owner. An elaborate, three-seat privy nearby appears to date from the early twentieth century. It features an L-shape, with a central cross gable on the southeast side, narrow, vertical, tongue-and-groove sheathing, and diamond-shaped, ornamental, gable vents. A board-and-batten shed stands on the northwest side of the drive, southeast of, and aligned with, the wash house and the stone chimney. Both buildings and the chimney are in fair condition.

The principal agricultural building is the log doublecrib barn which stands to the east of the house at the end of the straight drive. The barn consists of a large, vnotched log core with an unusual wide central aisle, partly closed by extended log wing walls on the front (southwest) The log core features stone piers and a continuous top plate. The wood-floored central space has been altered by the early addition of a granary on the southeast side. Openings on each side gave access to the two log cribs, which apparently acted as animal stalls. Access to each crib is by a door under the front shed. northwest crib features early pole floor joists for the loft above it, while the southeast crib still contains an early plank trough with hay access from the loft over the trough. Access to the central space is through high doorways on front and rear. The crib walls extend upward to form two

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lofts, but each loft extends over the space below to each side of a central driveway corresponding to the width of the doorways. The inner log loft walls are carried over the ground-floor central space, creating a complex and unusual barn form.

The shallow gable barn roof, covered with asphalt shingles, extends beyond the log cribs in each direction. The sheds and extensions have been altered several times, so that the original exterior form is difficult to determine, although most Bluegrass log barns have integral sheds and extensions. An open shed with enclosed loft extends across the front of the barn. It features circular sawn rafters and a concrete block milk house added to the southwest at the south end. A twentieth-century shed extends across the rear with a loft above. Both it and a fourteen-foot-wide extension at the southeast end, with hewn uprights and circular-sawn horizontal members, accommodated dairy cattle at a series of stanchions. An extension at the northwest end contains a long slatted corncrib with hewn uprights (possibly reused), circular-sawn horizontal members, and circular-sawn rafters, separated from the vertical-boarded northwest end wall of the log section by a drive-through. The barn has been recently carefully repaired and is in very good condition.

North of the barn stands a large, weatherboarded, frame granary. The door is situated in the southwest side, with small vents in the gable ends. An added vehicle shed covers the front and a modern shed extends from the southeast end. The circular-sawn frame stands on stone piers. It contains two large bins on the northwest side. The building is in poor condition. A twentieth-century frame tobacco barn stands to the northwest of the granary. The barn is in fair condition.

South of the log barn stand two final farm-related structures. The first faces the barn. It is an early-twentieth-century shed-roofed shop building which contains several discrete spaces. While the northwestern end's spaces are undefined, the opposite end contains a fully-extant and well-preserved forge. The leather bellows and

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Isaac Miller House Spencer County, Kentucky

stone hearth are intact. Just to the southwest of the shop is a chicken house utilizing a regionally popular form. The central section of the late-nineteenth-century building is a square hewn frame structure sheathed with vertical boards. The roof extends to either side supported on diagonal brackets, infilled with vertical boards also. The chickens roosted in the gables on roosts with no floors below them, so that their droppings fell onto the ground outside the chicken house. Both buildings are in fair condition.

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#### 8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Isaac Miller House is significant at the local level under Criterion A, as a good example of a nearly complete farm complex from the mid-nineteenth to early twentieth centuries. The house and outbuildings provide the best insight among Spencer County agricultural properties into the architectural, spacial, and physical structure of regional farming complexes, based on the analysis provided by the Agriculture Context of the Historic Resources of Spencer County Multiple Property Listing. The house and outbuildings illustrate the prosperous, moderately-scaled type of farm recognized in the field and identified in the historic context. Additional historic research would aid in understanding better the social and economic basis of Spencer: County, and, by extension, central Kentucky, farm life and help further establish its historic importance.

The farm reflects more completely than any others the manner in which farm buildings were added to and reused over a period of decades, from the antebellum period of slavery to the era following World War I, when farming practices in Kentucky were radically altered. The farm as a whole aids in interpreting the farming practices of prosperous farmers from the middle of the nineteenth century to the second quarter of the twentieth century, as outlined in the historic context on agriculture.

#### Historic Context

Isaac Miller was born in Virginia in 1796. He immigrated to Kentucky with his father, John Miller, a Virginia native, and his mother when he was nine years old, settling on this farm in Spencer County. John Miller died in the mid-1820s, and Issac Miller purchased tracts of ninety-four and 245 acres from his siblings in 1824, the second tract being his and his father's residence. While the biographical sketch on Isaac Miller in Perrin's History of Kentucky does not elaborate on the Miller's county of origin in Virginia, it is likely, given the possible Germanic origin of their name and regional patterns of

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settlement, that the family had traveled from the mid-Atlantic region to the Valley of Virginia in the previous generation.

Most of the early buildings on the farm, the doublecrib log barn, the log springhouse and meat house, and the surviving chimney at the probable slave house site near the house, appear to date from the period of his principal activity in the mid-nineteenth century. In 1822 Isaac Miller married Ann Montgomery of Nelson County (1804-1861) and had four children. Miller died in 1850, when their third child, Benjamin, born in 1837, was only thirteen. his will, probated in 1850, Isaac Miller left his estate, including his nine slaves, to his wife, with provision for his two sons when they came of age. 3 Although the form and scale of his house is not known, his large, double-crib, log barn, with its hay storage and built-in granary for feeding cattle and horses, suggests an intensive, mixed farming operation similar to those familiar from the western Virginia regions, with a small force of slaves to augment his labor. The saddlebag outbuilding site, with its standing chimney and possible subsurface features, represents the one potential area for examination of the participation of slaves in the business of the farm.

The barn is one of a group of four mid-nineteenth-century barns, one frame and three log, with overhanging forebays, complex floor plans, and mixed functions. All are located in the southern area of the county between Coxes Creek and Salt River, in an area of rolling hills and rich bottomlands. The springhouse and meat house are also among the county's best surviving representatives of the domestic outbuildings of the mid-nineteenth century. Larger than the few other surviving contemporary outbuildings encountered, they add to the potential of the property to increase understanding of past agricultural activities.

Benjamin Miller (1839-1917) had assumed management of the farm by the time of his mother's death and by 1887 had ammassed a total of 625 acres. In 1864 he married Margaret E. Nichols (died 1929) of Nelson County. They had only one child, Lizzie, who moved with her husband to Bloomfield.<sup>4</sup> NPS Form 10-800-a

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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The present main house was apparently built by Benjamin Miller in the third quarter of the nineteenth century, as were most of the remaining frame outbuildings. In fact, a later owner recalled understanding that the house had been built in 1862, just after Ann Montgomery Miller's death. The builder was said to have been Richard Constantine, whose descendents still live in the immediate vicinity.<sup>5</sup>

The house embodies changing local attitudes toward decorative and social expression in its adoption of the fashionable Italianate style and the commodious, formal, and impressive central-passage form. However, it demonstrates the conservative nature of regional culture by utilizing the same floor plan, organized around a central passage, found in one of the county's oldest and grandest houses, Vauclause (listed in the National Register), and in a number of very substantial brick and frame house built during the preceding decades before the Civil War employing a different stylisic idiom. Benjamin Miller directed in his will, probated in 1917, that the farm be sold by his wife and grandchildren. It was purchased by two men from Wincester, Kentucky in 1918 for \$50,000.000.6 They then resold it in 1920 to Oliver M. Rogers.7

Rogers and his wife, Mallye, spent the rest of his life farming there. He is said to have built some outbuildings and repaired and extended others. The granary, the corn crib, milk room, and cattle shed additions to the barn, the forge, henhouse, and the decorative privy, can all be attributed to the long Rogers period of ownership. He made the adaptations necessary to adapt to the altering circumstances of the Kentucky farm economy while preserving the overall fabric of the farm. It is likely that Rogers made the principal changes moderization which allowed the farm to be run with considerably less farm and household help than the modest labor force owned by the Millers. O. M. Rogers' will, probated in 1975, left to his wife "my 220-acre farm known as the 'Home Place'." The farm is now owned by his descendants, Anna and Charles Cornell and Margaret

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Isaac Miller House Spencer County, Kentucky

and Rayfield Houghlin, who have made some much-needed repairs to the barn and carefully maintained the other structures. Today the farm is one of Spencer County's best preserved and most instructive agriculture-related resources.

#### NOTES

- Spencer County Deed Book A, 166-175.
- W.H. Perrin, J.H. Battle, and G.C. Kniffen, <u>Kentucky:</u>
  <u>A History of the State</u> (Louisville: F.A. Battey and Co.,
  1887, 827.
- Spencer County Will Book C, 302-303.
- Perrin, 827.
- Mary Frances Brown, personal communication concerning a 1974 interview with Mallye Rogers, 1992.
- 6 Spencer County Deed Book 33, 340-341.
- Spencer County Deed Book 36, 190.
- 8 Brown, 1992.
- Spencer County Will Book 9, 594.

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Isaac Miller House Spencer County, Kentucky

#### 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL RESOURCES

Amos, Christine. "The Bluegrass Cultural Landscape: A regional planning overview." 1988. unpublished manuscript on file at the Kentucky Heritage Council. Frankfort, Kentucky.

Brooks, Carolyn. "Taylorsville, Spencer County Survey Summary Report". Spencer County Rural Development Committee and the Kentucky Heritage Council, 1991.

Brown, Mary Frances. personal communication concerning a 1974 interiview with Mallye Rogers, 1992.

---. The History of Spencer County, Kentucky. Utica, Kentucky: McDowell Publications, 1990.

---, ed. <u>Spencer County 1824-1974</u>. Louisville: Gibbs Inman, 1974.

Clark, Thomas D. <u>Agrarian Kentucky</u>. Lexington, Kentucky: UP of Kentucky, 1977.

Coleman, A. Lee & Kim, Dong I. "Black farm operators and rural farm population in Kentucky, 1900-1970". unpublished report. Lexington: Dept. of Sociology, Univ. of Kentucky, 1975.

Hilliard, Sam Bowers. Atlas of Antebellum Southern Agriculture. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State U., 1975.

Lake, D. J. & Co. An Atlas of Nelson and Spencer Counties. Kentucky. 1882. Bardstown, Kentucky: Nelson County Historical Society, 1973.

Perrin, W.H., Battle, J.H., & Kniffen, G.C. <u>Kentucky: A</u> <u>History of the State</u>. Louisville: F.A. Battey & Co, 1887.

Saloutos, Theodore. "Southern agriculture and problems of readjustment: 1865-1877". Agricultural History. 30.2 (1956).

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Smith, Peter Craig. "Negro Hamlets and Gentlemen Farms: a Dichotomous Rural Settlement Pattern in Kentucky's Bluegrass Region." Diss. U of Kentucky, 1972.

Spencer County Deed and Will Books.

U. S. Census Bureau. Census schedules, 1830-1940.

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#### 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

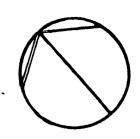
Verbal boundary description:

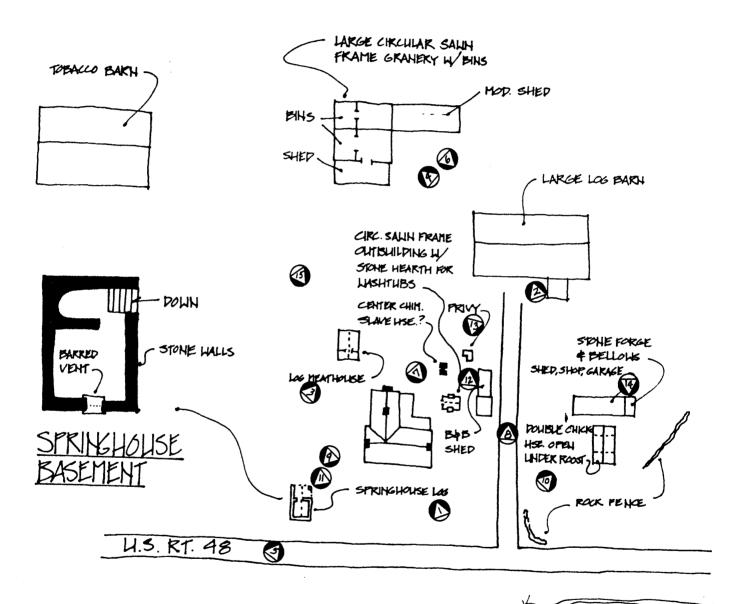
The boundaries of the property are the same as those listed in the offices of the Spencer County Property Valuation Administrator for tract 5 on Map 16.

Boundary Justification:

The boundaries of the property were selected to include the farm buildings and the immediate surrounding farmland which they supported. The property provides a consistent visual approximation of its appearance through time, and the almost completely cleared rolling farmland provides an appropriate setting for the house, log barn, and outbuildings.

### ISAACMILLER HOUSE SF-17 SKETCH SITEPLAN NOT PRAWN TO SCALE PHOTO KEY 0





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