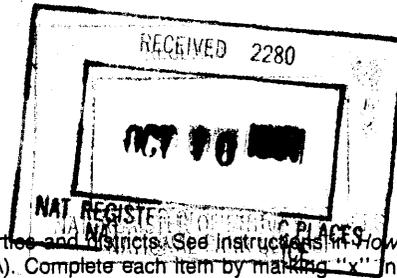


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form



12/10

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Horse Shoe Camp

other names/site number Horse Shoe Court/WA-220

2. Location

street & number 8241 Louisville Road NA  not for publication

city or town Bowling Green  vicinity

state Kentucky code KY county Warren code 227 zip code 42101

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

David L. Morgan, SHPO and  
Executive Director 10-1-97  
Date

Signature of certifying official/Title  
Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office

State of Federal agency and bureau

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

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

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

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

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

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Patrick Andrews

11/18/97

Horse Shoe Camp

Name of Property

Warren County, Kentucky

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
8	2	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
8	2	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

Historic Resources along U.S. 31W  
in Warren County, 1920-1965

Number of contributing resources previously listed  
in the National Register

None

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Hotel

Commerce/Trade/Restaurant

Domestic/Single Dwelling

Commerce/Trade/Specialty Trade

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Multiple Dwelling

Commerce/Trade/Warehouse

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th & 20th Century Revival/  
Late Gothic Revivals

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone/Limestone

walls Stone/Limestone  
Wood/Weatherboard

roof Asphalt & Metal/Tin

other

Narrative Description

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

**Horse Shoe Camp**

Name of Property

**Warren County, Kentucky**

County and State

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

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

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

**Criteria Considerations**

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

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Commerce

**Period of Significance**

1935-1965

**Significant Dates**

1935

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Not applicable

**Cultural Affiliation**

Not applicable

**Architect/Builder**

Brannen, Bill (Builder & Stonemason)

York, Francis (Builder & Stonemason)

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

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

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

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

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Name of repository:

Kentucky Library, Western KY University

Horse Shoe Camp  
Name of Property

Warren County, Kentucky  
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Approximately 3.5 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 

16	560600	4100280
Zone	Easting	Northing

  
2 

16	960670	4100160
----	--------	---------

3 

16	560540	4100080
Zone	Easting	Northing

  
4 

16	960470	4100200
----	--------	---------

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Janet L. Johnston

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date July 31, 1997

street & number 1511 Benson Avenue telephone 502-796-6039

city or town Bowling Green state KY zip code 42104

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

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

Property Owner

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

name Mrs. P.L. (Kathryn) Forrester

street & number 8241 Louisville Road telephone 502-782-1005

city or town Bowling Green state KY zip code 42101

**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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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 1

**Horse Shoe Camp (WA-220)  
Warren County, Kentucky**

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**Narrative Description**

Horse Shoe Camp (WA-220) contains approximately 3.5 acres located in rural Warren County and situated eight miles north of Bowling Green on Louisville Road (U.S. 31W). The property is bounded by the federal highway on the south side, farmland on the north side, and residential development on the east and west sides. The property contains nine structures situated around a "horse shoe" shaped driveway, landscaped courtyard, and owner's residence and contains a limestone wall extending the length of the property on U.S. 31W and modest landscaping, including shrubs, trees, and flowers. The property is historically significant for its association with U.S. 31W and as an example of 20th century commercial architecture. The nominated property includes the 3.5 acres, eight contributing buildings, and two noncontributing buildings.

**Overall Design of Horse Shoe Camp**

Horse Shoe Camp is an excellent example of motel architecture in the 1930s. It combines the building type and arrangement of a cottage court and motor court and characterizes the popular form and styles of 20th century commercial architecture.

Buildings "C" through "F" resemble a 1930s cottage court. These buildings are freestanding cottages with attached garages and are arranged in a clustered pattern. In turn, Buildings "B" and "G" are typical building types of motor court construction. These buildings have individual cottages and garages integrated by a single roof and were constructed in a row arrangement. The buildings of Horse Shoe Camp are situated around a wide U-shaped (or "horse shoe" shape) driveway surrounding a landscaped courtyard.

Horse Shoe Camp is vernacular in its use of natural and regional materials, such as limestone, and its workmanship. However, it exhibits the Gothic Revival style of architecture and combines the simple detail and construction with the ornamentation of the late Gothic Revival style. Significant architectural features of Horse Shoe Camp are the side-gabled or hipped roofs with steep cross gables and the mixture of limestone and

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**Horse Shoe Camp (WA-220)  
Warren County, Kentucky**

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wood construction. Four contributing buildings were constructed of limestone quarried at nearby Whitestone and Keystone Quarries in Warren County (Balcolm 3). Other features of Horse Shoe Camp include neon lighting extending the roof line and cross gables, advertising signs, and a flashing light atop the tavern.

The interior of the individual units are similar and had typical interior designs and furnishings of motor courts in the 1940s and 1950s. Each unit had pine paneling, tile flooring, panel ray heating, sink, and shower. According to Mrs. Forrester, the units were furnished with a ". . . double bed, luggage rack, little table lamp, a rocking chair and straight chair, a little dressing table with a mirror and a little stool" (Balcolm 7).

**Tavern/Office (Building "A")**

Located on the south side of Horse Shoe Camp and fronting on Louisville Road (U.S. 31W), the tavern/office building was the first building erected on the site in the 1930s. Originally serving as a beer tavern, later uses of this structure included an office, filling station, gift shop, and three cottage units.

Resembling a residential structure in form, this one and one-half story commercial building was constructed circa 1930 and encompasses a 36' x 56' original section, a 10' x 15' attached garage, and a 11' x 36' shed addition. The original section of the tavern/office building includes a main room with a hipped roof and two side projections created by an intersecting side gabled roof. The roof is currently covered with rolled roofing, features a wide eave overhang with exposed rafters, and is adorned by a neon advertising sign and flashing light. The foundation of the structure is uncut limestone. The tavern/office building has two limestone chimneys, and both chimneys feature a form of castellations common in Gothic Revival architecture. Both chimneys were originally located on the exterior of the structure, but the smaller chimney is now enclosed by the shed addition.

Features of the main facade include four windows, a single entry door, and a 15' x 21' canopy extending from the facade of the building. The canopy is supported by two uncut limestone columns and has a front-gabled roof. The west facade of the original section contains an exterior

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Horse Shoe Camp (WA-220)  
Warren County, Kentucky

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chimney, a small gabled projection, and the attached garage. The small gabled projection features one door covered by a small dormer entry porch and two windows. The north facade includes an attached limestone garage and shed frame addition. The east facade features a portion of the shed addition and the larger projection of the original building.

The interior of the building features five sections. While the main section of the original building was utilized for both the tavern and office, the three remaining portions of the original building were utilized as office space, garage, and additional cottage units. The smaller section was located on the east facade and was primarily utilized as a cottage unit. The larger section was originally utilized as a cottage unit with a garage and later converted into the principal office for the motor court. The final section was the frame shed addition and was utilized as a cottage unit.

**Cottage Units #1-8 (Building "B")**

Located on the north side of the Horse Shoe Camp, Building "B" was constructed in two phases in the early 1930s. The first phase consisted of the construction of four cottage units and attached garages. The second phase included the addition of four cottage units with three attached garages. Local stonemason and builder, Bill Brannen, built both phases of this building.

Building "B" is 20' x 171'. The eight individual cottages and seven garages are arranged in a typical "row" configuration and are integrated by a single roof. Constructed of uncut limestone, Building "B" has a side-gabled roof with steep cross gables delineating each individual unit. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles and has a wide eave overhang and exposed rafters. Building "B" also features painted weatherboard on the gable ends and numerous windows with limestone sills. Windows on the south and west facades are covered by metal canopies.

The interior of the individual cottage units and garages are uniform. The garages are simple in form and have interior walls of horizontal framing and concrete floors. The main entrance for Units #1-7 are located within the attached garages, and the primary entry to Unit #8 is located on the north facade of Building "B." Each unit contained a bedroom and

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Horse Shoe Camp (WA-220)  
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bathroom.

**Cottage Unit (Building "C")**

Built in the early 1930s, Building "C" is located on the north side of the property and is one of the four remaining frame structures. This vernacular structure is 16' x 24' and includes an individual cottage unit and attached garage. Constructed of horizontal wood siding, this unit has a steep hipped roof with a steep cross gable embellishing the facade, and the roof now is covered with asphalt shingles. The south facade of Building "C" features one window and the garage. Building "C" is a one-bedroom cottage unit.

**Cottage Unit (Building "D")**

Building "D" was also constructed in the early 1930s and is located on the northernmost section of Horse Shoe Camp. This vernacular structure originally was a two-bedroom cottage with a kitchenette and was converted into a horse barn in the 1950s. Building "D" today is 38' x 43' and includes the original cottage unit and an addition. It has a steep hipped roof covered with tin roofing and features a cross gable above the main entrance of the original cottage. Constructed of wood framing, this building now is partially covered with corrugated aluminum, and the original doors and windows are covered with plywood and corrugated aluminum.

**Cottage Unit (Building "E")**

This one-bedroom cottage was constructed in the early 1930s and is located on the north section of the property. Constructed of wood framing, this vernacular structure is covered with horizontal board and has a steep hipped roof and central cross gable. The roof today is covered with roll roofing. Building "E" encompasses 29' x 22' and has an attached garage. This structure is simple in form and design and features only the cross gable and one multi-pane window on the principal facade.

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**Cottage Unit (Building "F")**

Building "F" is located on the northwest side of Horse Shoe Camp and is a two-bedroom cottage unit with a kitchenette. This 33' x 20' vernacular unit has a steep hipped roof with a cross gable embellishing the facade and has wood framing covered partially with horizontal boards and asphalt shingles. Constructed in the early 1930s, Building "E" has a porch extending the width of the cottage unit, an attached garage, and rear addition.

**Cottage Units #9-12 & 14 (Building "G")**

Located on the west side of the Horse Shoe Camp, Building "G" was constructed in 1935 by local builder and stonemason, Francis York, and his apprentice and nephew, Jimmy Linville. Building "G" is approximately 24' x 117' and includes five individual cottages and four garages. The units and garages are integrated by a single roof and are arranged in a typical "row" configuration. Unlike Building "B," this building has one cottage (Unit #14) situated perpendicular to the other units.

Constructed of uncut limestone, Building "G" has a side-gabled roof with steep cross gables delineating each individual unit. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles and has a wide eave overhang and exposed rafters. Building "G" also features painted weatherboard on the gable ends and numerous windows with limestone sills. Windows on the south and east facades are covered by metal canopies.

The interior of the individual cottage units and garages of Building "G" also are uniform. The garages are simple in form and have interior walls of horizontal framing and concrete floors. The main entrances for Units #9-12 are located within the attached garages, and the primary entry to Unit #14 is located on the south facade of Building "G." Each unit has a bedroom and bathroom.

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**Cottage Unit/Owner's Residence (Building "H")**

Building "H" is located within the landscaped courtyard and in the center of Horse Shoe Camp. Constructed in the mid-1930s, this building originally was constructed as a one-room cottage with a kitchenette. The original cottage resembled the other cottage units on the property; however, it featured a hipped roof with paired cross gables. Since 1952, this individual cottage unit has been transformed into a single-family residence. Constructed of uncut limestone, Building "H" now includes an attached carport and several additions. The paired cross gables have been removed, and a new roof has been constructed to incorporate the original section and additions.

**Outbuilding and Wellhouse (Buildings "I" and "J")**

Buildings "I" and "J" are the two noncontributing structures located on the property. Building "I" is a frame 15' x 17' outbuilding, and its date of construction is unknown. Building "J" is a 6' x 6' wellhouse located on the northeast side of the property and constructed of uncut limestone. This building housed a 75' well which was utilized for water prior to availability of city water (Balcolm 4). Its date of construction is not documented.

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**Horse Shoe Camp (WA-220)  
Warren County, Kentucky**

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**Statement of Significance**

Horse Shoe Camp meets National Register Criteria A and C and is significant within the context of "Historic Resources along U.S. 31W in Warren County, 1920-1965." It is historically significant within two contexts of evaluation, "Commercial Architecture in America, 1935-1965" and "Commerce along U.S. 31W in Warren County, 1935-1965." Horse Shoe Camp is significant for its association with Dixie Highway (U.S. 31W) and as an excellent example of a 20th century motor court. The development of Horse Shoe Camp paralleled the evolution of the American motel, and it exemplifies the trend of commercial development along U.S. 31W in Warren County.

The period of significance, 1935-1965, is the time in which Horse Shoe Camp developed into its present-day form. The beginning date 1935 constitutes the construction of the last contributing building on the site. The ending date 1965 signifies the opening of Interstate 65 through Warren County and the beginning of the decline of motor tourism along U.S. 31W in Warren County. The significant date 1935 indicates the final construction of the present-day Horse Shoe Camp.

**Commercial Architecture in America, 1935-1965**

To evaluate the historic significance of Horse Shoe Camp, documentation and registration requirements in the multiple property documentation form, "Historic Resources along U.S. 31W in Warren County, 1920-1965," were reviewed. With the construction and improvement of federal highways and the emergence of the automobile in the 1920s, new types of commercial architecture developed to cater to motorists. One of the more unique forms of 20th century commercial architecture was the American motel. Its development transformed the American roadside and spurred innovative designs of lodging facilities, including auto camps, tourist homes, cabin and cottage courts, motor courts, motor inns, and the highway hotel.

Cottage courts were one type of lodging establishment constructed in the 1930s and 1940s. These courts featured freestanding cottages and were often functional or imitations of popular architectural styles. The

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cottages were small, attached or detached buildings with or without garages or carports and were arranged in numerous configurations. As motor tourism increased, cottage courts became a popular type of motel architecture in the United States, Kentucky, and Warren County. However, only three cottage courts exist along U.S. 31W in Warren County.

An adaptation of the cottage court was the motor court. This type of motel architecture was popular in the 1930s and 1940s and is still a prominent scene on the American roadside. The motor court featured individual units integrated by a single roof. Early forms often had attached garages arranged in twos or alternated between rooms and were arranged in several configurations. The motor court is a modern form of motel architecture, and along U.S. 31W in Warren County, ten examples have been identified.

Horse Shoe Camp is an excellent example of the transformation of the American motel. Constructed between 1930 and 1935, this property combines the building types and spatial organization of a cottage court and motor court. The first phase included the construction of the beer tavern (Building "A") and four cottages. Resembling a motor court, the four cottages (Building "B") had attached garages alternating between the individual units. These units and garages were integrated by a single roof and arranged in a row configuration.

The second phase of the property included the addition of four units and garages to Building "B" and the construction of five freestanding cottages (Buildings "C" through "F"). This phase resembled the building type and organization of early 1930s cottage courts. Located in the rear of the property, these cottages had individual roofs and attached garages and were arranged in a crescent-shaped configuration.

The final phase of Horse Shoe Camp was the construction of five cottages (Building "G") with garages alternating between the units and a freestanding cottage (Building "H"). Resembling a motor court, the five cottages and four garages were integrated by a single roof and were arranged in a row configuration. With the completion of the last buildings, Horse Shoe Camp developed into a modern motor court. The final development contained a mixture of building types, and its individual

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**Horse Shoe Camp (WA-220)  
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buildings were arranged in a wide U-shaped (or "horse shoe" shaped) configuration surrounding a landscaped courtyard.

Today Horse Shoe Camp maintains the original buildings and spatial organization. Although one freestanding cottage has been demolished, Horse Shoe Camp is an excellent example of the transformation of the American motel.

**Commerce along U.S. 31W in Warren County, 1935-1965**

Horse Shoe Camp also is historically significant for its contribution to the commercial development along U.S. 31W in Warren County between 1935 and 1965. To evaluate its significance within this context, the multiple property documentation form, "Historic Resources along U.S. 31W in Warren County, 1920-1965," again was reviewed. Commercial development along U.S. 31W in Warren County was a response to the emergence of automobile travel and the improvement of Dixie Highway (U.S. 31W). As travel and tourism flourished, new types of commercial establishments evolved to cater to the modern motorist and tourist. The American motel was one of the commercial establishments that developed to accommodate the weary traveler.

During the period of significance, commercial establishments along U.S. 31W in Warren County flourished, and the pattern of commercial land use changed. Prior to the 1930s, lodging facilities were limited to the few hotels and tourist homes located in Bowling Green. However, with the improvements of Dixie Highway (U.S. 31W) and the increase in travel in Warren County, numerous types of accommodations developed. These facilities ranged in size, building type, and spatial organization and were often located on the urban fringe or in rural Warren County.

With the construction of an alternate route of U.S. 31W through Bowling Green in 1949, the pattern of commercial land use again shifted. Numerous commercial establishments, especially motor courts, were constructed along U.S. 31W Bypass, and it quickly became the central location for businesses catering to the hungry and weary traveler. By 1965, Interstate 65 through Warren County was opened and bypassed the commercial establishments along U.S. 31W. The opening of Interstate 65

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marked the beginning of the decline of commerce associated with automobile travel and a change of commercial land use patterns. Many establishments, such as restaurants and filling stations, continued their operations and adapted their goods and services to a new clientele. However, numerous businesses, such as the cottage courts and motor courts, ceased operations or converted their facilities into apartments.

Horse Shoe Camp was the first motor court constructed along U.S. 31W in Warren County, and its development exemplifies the patterns of commerce along U.S. 31W during the period of significance. As automobile travel on the federal highway increased and as tourism developed in southcentral Kentucky, Horse Shoe Camp's original owners, Mr. and Mrs. J.L. Cornwell, foresaw the need and economic potential for businesses catering to motorists and tourists.

Located in rural Warren County, Horse Shoe Camp began as the site of a beer tavern and four small cottages. As the demand for lodging and gasoline increased, the Cornwells added cottages and gasoline pumps and transformed the site into a modern motor court. During the 1940s and 1950s, Horse Shoe Camp was a popular lodging establishment for travelers and tourists.

In 1952, the Cornwells sold the property to Mr. and Mrs. P.L. Forrester. The Forresters and their family resided on the property and operated the motor court and tavern. During a 1992 interview with Mrs. Kathryn Forrester, she said "[i]t was the busiest place between Chicago and Florida" (Balcolm 4). Mrs. Forrester also stated that the motor court was fully occupied each night and catered to motorists traveling through Warren County and tourists visiting southcentral Kentucky attractions, such as Mammoth Cave, Lost River Cave, and Beech Bend (10). In 1954, the Forresters obtained a liquor license and converted the tavern into a packaged liquor store. However, in 1957, residents voted to prohibit liquor sales in Warren County, and the Forresters converted the tavern into a gift shop. With the opening of Interstate 65 through Warren County in 1965, the vacancy sign became a frequent sight at the Horse Shoe Camp. The Forresters continued the motor court operations but eventually closed in 1982.

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Its transformation from a small cottage court and tavern to a motor court parallels the development of commerce along U.S. 31W in the United States, Kentucky, and Warren County. It was the first motor court of its kind in Warren County, and its operations and uses exemplify the patterns of commerce along U.S. 31W in Warren County.

**Integrity Considerations**

Today Horse Shoe Camp reflects the spatial organization, physical components, and historical associations originally associated with the motor court and tavern. Although one original freestanding cottage was demolished in the 1950s, the remainder of the property remains intact, and the feeling and character of Horse Shoe Camp have been maintained. Using the registration requirements set forth in the multiple property documentation form, "Historic Resources along U.S. 31W in Warren County, 1920-1965," the historic integrity of Horse Shoe Camp was assessed, and the seven integrity factors -- location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association -- were examined.

The location, setting, and design of Horse Shoe Camp remain intact and represent the development of motor courts in the 1930s. The location of Horse Shoe Camp was influenced by the original route of U.S. 31W in northern Warren County. It has an integrity of location by not having been moved and by the existence of the original right-of-way of U.S. 31W. Situated in rural Warren County, Horse Shoe Camp retains an integrity of setting. Although low-density residential development has occurred on adjacent properties, Horse Shoe Camp still reflects the visual and functional relationships. Integrity of setting and design are further maintained by the retention of a majority of the original structures and configuration associated with Horse Shoe Camp. Since 1935, only one freestanding cottage has been demolished, and no permanent structures have been constructed.

Horse Shoe Camp has integrity of design through the retention of its original configuration and architectural elements relating to its original appearance. The building types and configuration represent the transformation of the small cottage court to a modern motor court. Its design reflects the trend of commercial architecture in the early 20th century.

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**Horse Shoe Camp (WA-220)  
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Horse Shoe Camp retains an integrity of materials and workmanship through the retention of original building materials, such as limestone and wood. The contributing buildings are vernacular structures and exhibit elements of the Gothic Revival style of architecture. The simple detail and use of natural and regional materials exhibit the distinctive workmanship. One structure (Building "H") has been significantly altered; however, this building represents the continual use of the property as a business and residence by the Forresters.

Because integrity of location, setting, design, materials, and workmanship have been maintained, Horse Shoe Camp evokes a sense of past time and place. Its layout and construction reflect a typical 1930s motor court. Because the property is still located on the original route of U.S. 31W, integrity of association exists.

**Historical Development of Horse Shoe Camp**

The development of Horse Shoe Camp began in the early 1930s. It was the first cottage court along U.S. 31W in Warren County, and its transformation paralleled the evolution of the American motel (Balcolm 2). The site first developed as the location of a beer tavern (Building "A") owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Cornwell. As automobile travel on U.S. 31W and the demand for overnight accommodations increased, the Cornwells installed gasoline pumps and constructed cabins. While it is not documented, the use of the word "camp" may also indicate that the Cornwells utilized the site as an auto camp and rented campsites to travelers.

The first cottages of Horse Shoe Camp were located to the rear of the tavern and on the north side of the property. Bill Brannen, a local builder and stonemason, constructed four cottages with attached garages (now Building "B"). This building was later expanded and ultimately included eight attached cottages separated by seven garages. Subsequently, five detached cottages (Buildings "C," "D," "E," and "F") were constructed on the west side of the property. In 1935, a local builder and stonemason, Francis York, and his apprentice and nephew, Jimmy Linville, constructed five attached cottages and garages (Building "G") on the south side of the property and

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one detached cottage (Building "H") in the center of the property.

With the completion of the cottages, the Cornwells changed the name of Horse Shoe Camp to Horseshoe Cottage Court, which more accurately depicted the form and style of the lodging facility. In 1952, the Cornwells sold the property to P.L. and Kathryn Forrester.

The Forresters and their family resided on the property, and they operated both the cottage court and beer tavern. The Forresters changed the property's name to Horse Shoe Court, demolished one of the individual cottages, converted an individual cottage into a horse barn, and expanded the central cottage into a single-family residence. In 1954, the Forresters obtained a liquor license and converted the beer tavern into a packaged liquor store. However, in 1957, Warren County residents voted to prohibit liquor sales, and the Forresters closed the liquor store and converted it into a gift shop. With the prohibition of liquor sales in Warren County and the opening of Interstate 65 in 1965, travel along U.S. 31W decreased, and the operations of Horse Shoe Court diminished. The Forresters continued the motel operation until the early 1980s. Today Mrs. Kathryn Forrester and longtime employee, Jimmy Linville, continue to reside on the property and to maintain its historical character. Mrs. Forrester resides in the central residence (Building "G"), and Mr. Linville resides in Unit #1 of Building "B." The remaining structures are utilized for storage.

**Summary**

Horse Shoe Camp exhibits early 20th century commercial development and exemplifies the trends of commerce along U.S. 31W in Warren County. The nominated property includes ten of the original eleven buildings, and its spatial organization, location, materials, and setting represent the development of motor courts in the United States, Kentucky, and Warren County during the period of significance. Horse Shoe Camp conveys the character and feeling of motor tourism and commerce along U.S. 31W.

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

A certain tract of land located on the northwest side of the highway in Warren County, Kentucky, beginning at a post in the right-of-way line on the highway, a corner common to this tract and the remaining lands of Wilma L. Hitt; thence with the right-of-way line of the highway N. 59 degrees E. 481.5 feet to a stake, another corner to this tract and the remaining Hitt lands; thence N. 37 1/4 W. 328 feet to a stake, another corner to this tract and the remaining Hitt lands; thence with the Hitt line S. 52 1/2 W. 484.5 feet to a fence post, another corner to this tract and the remaining Hitt lands; thence with another Hitt line S. 38 1/4 E. 318 feet to the point of beginning, according to a survey of D.A. Lawson, surveyor, under date of March 21, 1952. (*Warren County Deed Book 256, pp. 338-341*).

**Verbal Boundary Justification**

The boundary of Horse Shoe Camp was determined by the present-day parcel containing the significant historic components identified on the site plan. This boundary encloses all of the property contributing to the historic character of the cottage court.

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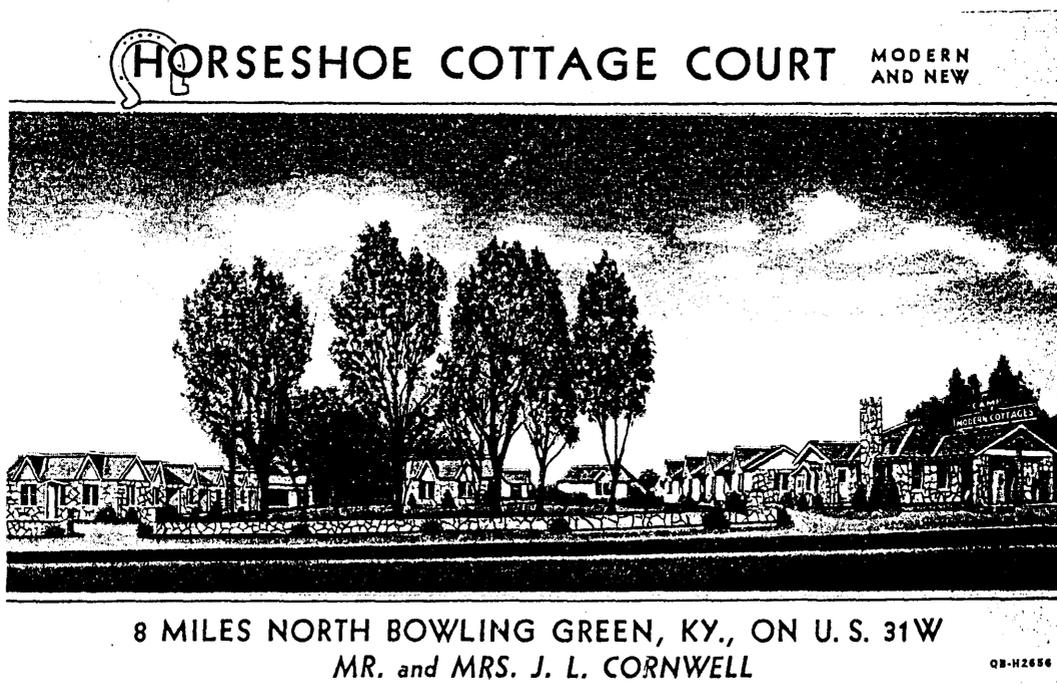
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Postcard of Horse Shoe Camp, circa 1930-1935



Postcard of Horseshoe Cottage Court, circa 1940s



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**Registration Card for Horse Shoe Camp, circa 1950s (reduced)**

**HORSE SHOE COURT  
OWNERS, MR. & MRS. P. L. FORRESTER  
BOWLING GREEN, KY.**

**Registration Card**

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 19 \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

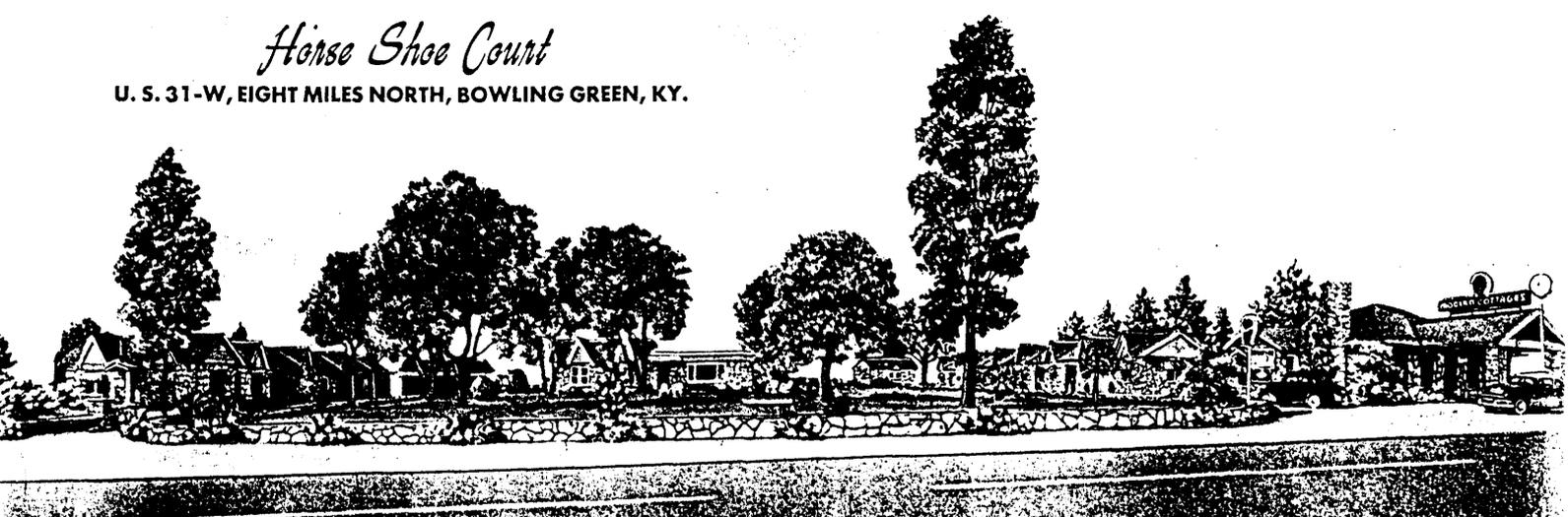
City and State \_\_\_\_\_

Cabin No.	Number in Party	Rate
Make of Car	License No.	State
Time of Arrival	Time of Departure	Clerk

**Postcard of Horse Shoe Court, circa 1950s (reduced)**

*Horse Shoe Court*

U. S. 31-W, EIGHT MILES NORTH, BOWLING GREEN, KY.



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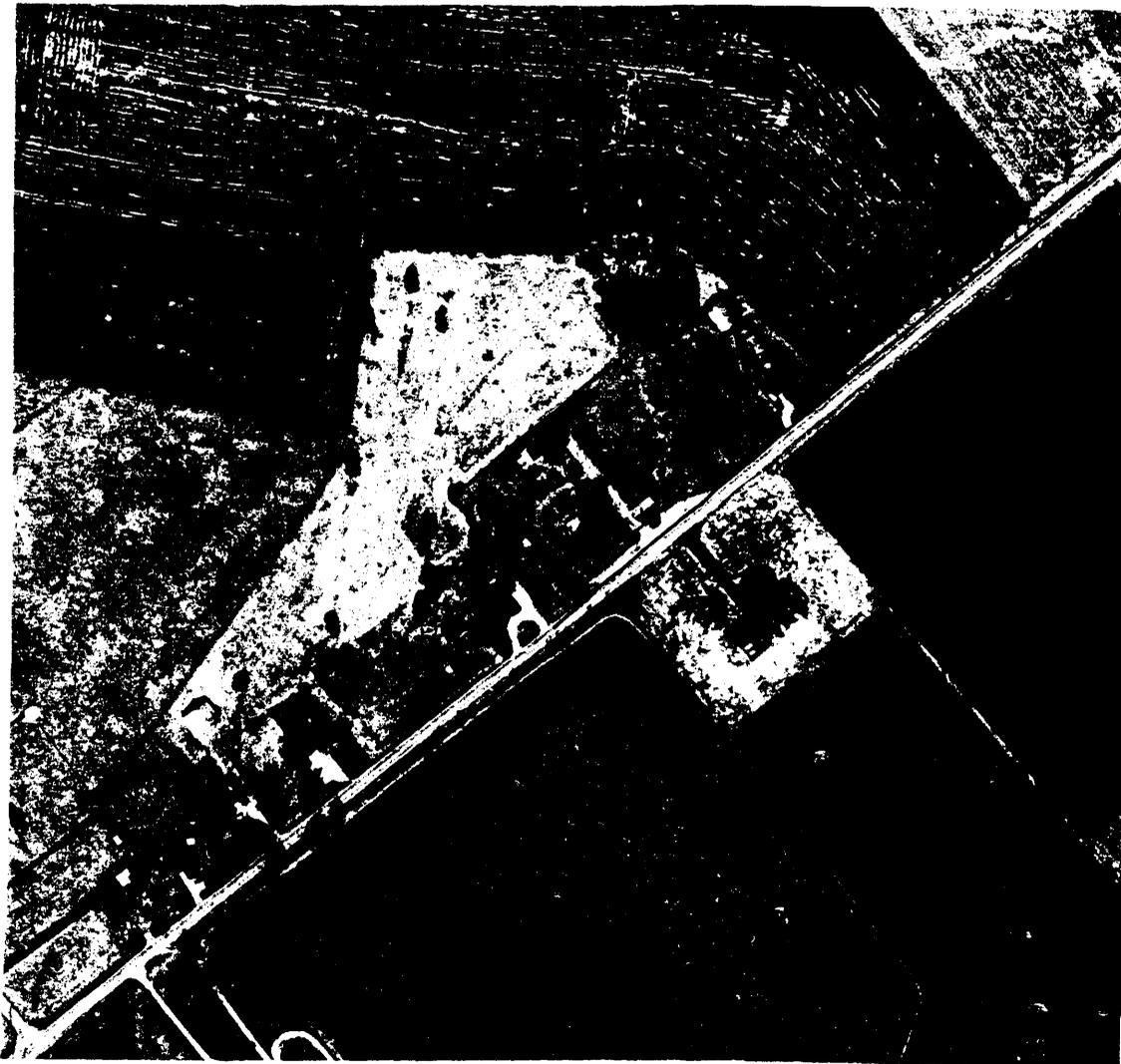
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Aerial Photograph of Horse Shoe Camp and Adjacent Properties

January 1995

1" = 400'



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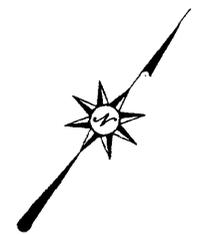
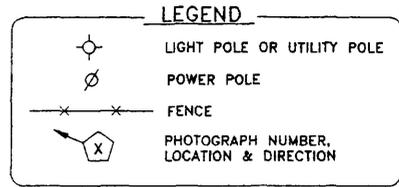
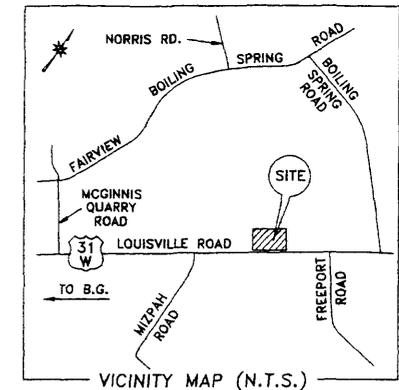
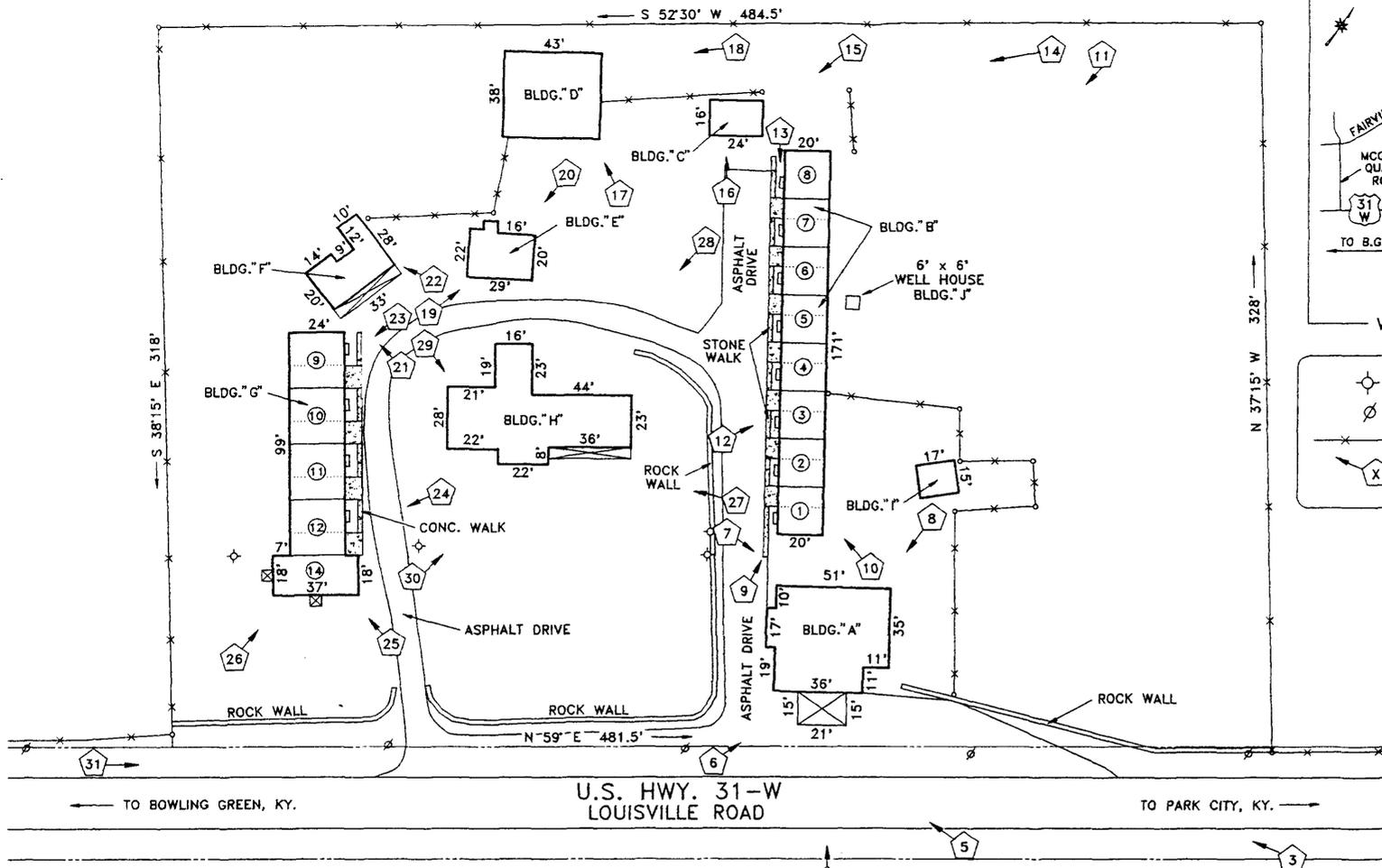
**Section \_\_\_ Page 23**

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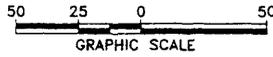
**Site Plan of Horse Shoe Camp**

**1" = 50'**



TO BOWLING GREEN, KY. ← U.S. HWY. 31-W LOUISVILLE ROAD → TO PARK CITY, KY.

NOTE: THIS DRAWING PREPARED FOR REFERENCE PURPOSES ONLY. THE DATUM SHOWN HEREON WAS DERIVED FROM DEEDS OF RECORD, CITY-COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION G.I.S. DRAWINGS AND AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS. NO FIELD VERIFICATION AS TO THE ACCURACY OF THIS DRAWING HAS BEEN PERFORMED.



DWG NO. CAMP.DWG SCALE <del>1"=40'</del>		<b>HORSE SHOE CAMP</b> U.S. HWY. 31W, LOUISVILLE ROAD WARREN COUNTY, KENTUCKY	
		PROPERTY OF <b>MRS. P.L. FORRESTER</b> 8241 LOUISVILLE ROAD ~ D.B. 256 PG. 340 BOWLING GREEN, WARREN COUNTY, KENTUCKY	
		PREPARED BY ~ KEITH CROWE P.L.S. 2957 1511 BENSON AVENUE BOWLING GREEN, KY. 42104	SHEET 1 OF 1

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**Photograph Log**

Janet L. Johnston took the following photographs on Sunday, July 13, 1997 at Horse Shoe Camp, 8241 Louisville Road, Bowling Green, Warren County, Kentucky. The negatives are located at her residence at 1511 Benson Avenue, Bowling Green, Kentucky 42104.

<b><u>Photo #</u></b>	<b><u>Description</u></b>
1	This photograph shows the southwest side of Horse Shoe Camp. The camera direction is northwest.
2	The northeast side of Horse Shoe Camp is shown in this photograph. The camera direction is north.
3	The northeast side of Horse Shoe Camp is shown in this photograph. The camera direction is west.
4	This photograph shows the south facade of the tavern/office (Building "A"). The camera direction is north.
5	The south and east facades of the tavern/office (Building "A") are shown. The camera direction is west.
6	The south facade of the tavern/office (Building "A") is shown in this photograph. The camera direction is north.
7	This photograph shows the west and north facades of the tavern/office (Building "A"). The camera direction is north.
8	The north and east facades of the tavern/office (Building "A") are shown in this photograph. The camera direction is south.
9	This photograph shows the south and west facades of Building "B". The camera direction is north.
10	This photograph shows the south facade and a portion of the east facade of Building "B". The camera direction is west.
11	The east and north facades of Building "B" are shown in this photograph. The camera direction is south.
12	This photograph shows units #5 and #6 of Building "B". The camera direction is north.

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<u>Photo #</u>	<u>Description</u>
13	The west portion of Building "B" is shown in this photograph. The camera direction is southeast.
14	The north side of Horse Shoe Camp is shown. The camera direction is west.
15	This photograph shows the north and east facades of Building "C". The camera direction is south.
16	The south facade of Building "C" is shown in this photograph. The camera direction is north.
17	This photograph shows the east and south facades of Building "D". The camera direction is northwest.
18	The north and east facades of Building "D" are shown. The camera direction is west.
19	This photograph shows the north and east facades of Building "E". The camera direction is north.
20	The north and east facades of Building "E" are shown in this photograph. The camera direction is south.
21	The east facade of Building "F" is shown. The camera direction is west.
22	This photograph shows the east and north facades of Building "F". The camera direction is west.
23	The north and east facades of Building "G" are shown. The camera direction is south.
24	Unit #12 of Building "G" is shown in this photograph. The camera direction is south.
25	This photograph shows unit #14 of Building "G" (south facade). The camera direction is west.
26	This photograph shows the south facade of Building "G". The camera direction is north.
27	The south facade of Building "H" is shown. The camera direction is west.
28	The north and east facades of Building "H" are shown. The camera direction is south.

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<u>Photo #</u>	<u>Description</u>
29	This photograph shows the north and west facades of Building "H". The camera direction is southeast.
30	The south facade of Building "H" is shown. The camera direction is north.
31	This photograph shows the south side of Horse Shoe Camp. The camera direction is east.
32	This photograph shows the advertising sign and flashing light attached to the roof of Building "A". The camera direction is east.