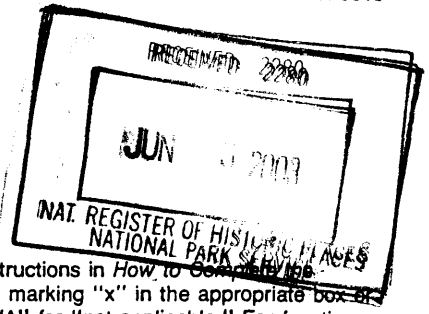


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

759



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 George W. Barkley Farm

other names/site number BK21

2. Location

street & number Route #1, Box 150 NA not for publication

city or town Augusta vicinity

state Kentucky code KY county Bracken code 023 zip code 41002

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 David L. Morgan, SHPO and executive director 3-04-03
 Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State Historic Preservation Office: Kentucky Heritage Council
 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 certifying 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:)

David L. Morgan
Signature of the Keeper

June 18, 2003
Date of Action

George W. Barkley Farm
Name of Property

Bracken, 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	
0	2	buildings
1		sites
		structures
		objects
1	2	Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/ agricultural field

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/ agricultural field

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

N/A

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation N/A

walls N/A

roof N/A

other

Narrative Description

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

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)

Agriculture

Period of Significance

1864-1865

Significant Dates

1864; 1865

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

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:

Maysville-Mason Museum
University of Kentucky
Kentucky Heritage Council

George W. Barkley Farm
Name of Property

Bracken, Kentucky
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approximately 11

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	17	242310	4296100	Higginsport	3	17	242260	4295920
	Zone	Easting	Northing	Quad		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	17	242400	4295940		4	17	242240	4296080

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 Terri Boggs, Mac Cooley, John DeAtley, Kathy Siler

organization Centre College date July 21, 1995

street & number 625 W. Walnut St. telephone (606) 238-5244

city or town Danville state Ky. zip code 40422

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 Eugene Hargett

street & number Box 150 Route #1 telephone (606) 756-2345

city or town Augusta state Ky. zip code 41002

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 Number 7 Page 1

Barkley, George W., Farm

(BK-21) Bracken County, Kentucky

Description

The original farm owned by George W. Barkley is now divided among a number of owners. In 1860, the farm was estimated at approximately 400 acres (mostly bottom land along the Ohio River), and the census gives the value of George Barkley's land as \$5,000 (one of the largest amounts in Bracken County). The locations of the original farmhouses have been lost, though there is speculation that one was located near the river and destroyed by a flood. Remains of another home are near the property, but only a stone chimney is left standing. The part of the property that the surveyors felt was an appropriate site for nomination was the location of the farmhouse built by George Barkley's son, Colonel William E. Barkley in 1908. Colonel Barkley was an extremely important person in the development of the local community. He was President and major stockholder of at least three banks in Augusta, as well as the impetus behind bringing the telephone to Bracken County. His home is now on 11 acres owned by Eugene Hargett, who claims that he bought the farm from an adopted daughter of William Barkley, a Mrs. Pogue (personal conversation). A set of railroad tracks bisect the farm, and were built around the turn of the century. The current farm runs from the tracks to Route 8 (approximately one-quarter of a mile) and extends along the tracks long enough to make 11 acres. Due to the character of the bottom land, most of it is still in use for row crops, mostly corn and tobacco. The portion of the property being considered for nomination is also currently planted in corn and tobacco.

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Section Number 7 Page 2

Barkley, George W., Farm

(BK-21) Bracken County, Kentucky

Beyond the tracks is part of the original farm that includes very large bottom land all the way to the river (one-half mile). This property is the possession of another land owner.

The Structures

The 1908 house is a two story center passage, double pile farmhouse. It has simple fenestration which includes one-over-one windows, a colonial porch, and plain entablature. There is a rear entrance and a small porch on the west elevation. The house is five-bay with a 1/1 sash and Doric columns supporting the porch with decorative panels cast in concrete piers under the porch.

The barn has mortise and tenon joints with wooden pegs used as the main fasteners. The walls are vertical board, and the pier foundation (tenuous as it is) is made up of field stone and concrete block. The support posts are hand hewn. The gable roof consists of wooden slats covered with corrugated tin. There is a front sliding door and a rear hinged door. Oddly enough, the center bay is tiered perpendicular to the gable while the side bays are tiered parallel to the gable. There are six bents and three bays. The front three bents on the right and the front two bents on the left have been enclosed, and the barn has been wired for electricity. The barn is four tiers high in the center, and according to the owner, the barn is as old as the house. Mr. Hargett also claims that the Ohio River flood of 1937 moved the barn to its present location,

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section Number 7 Page 3

Barkley, George W., Farm

(BK-21) Bracken County, Kentucky

which accounts for some of its dilapidated condition.

There is also a wooden carport on the property near the house that seems to be as old as the house itself. No real evidence could be found as to its origin. Mr. Hargett also stated that near the railroad tracks there was originally a train depot, of which the surveyors could find no trace.

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Section Number 8 Page 1

Barkley, George W., Farm

(BK-21) Bracken County, Kentucky

Statement of Significance

The George W. Barkley Farm (BK-21) meets National Register criterion A. The farm is significant in Kentucky's agricultural history in association with an event: it is the site of first cultivation of White Burley tobacco. The Period of Significance of 1864-1865 has been chosen to recognize the two growing seasons when the plant was conceived and successfully harvested, giving the farm its most compelling claim to statewide significance. Prior to the 1860s, Kentucky had been a national leader in tobacco production, growing a dark, smoke-cured tobacco in the western part of the state used for chewing and pipe and cigar smoking. This nomination's historic context, "The Development of White Burley Tobacco, 1860-1880" discusses the early expansion of the new strain of tobacco into the central part of the state. For nearly two decades, Bluegrass farmers gave White Burley little more than passing attention, but in the early 1880s the crop transformed that region's agricultural landscape. Barkley and his descendents farmed and grew tobacco into the 20th century, however their role in the dissemination of White Burley tobacco from Bracken County on the Ohio River, to the inland counties of the Bluegrass region, has not been recognized by historians. While the Barkley family had a lengthy local prominence as Bracken County farmers, their farm's significance at a *statewide* level comes from the development of this new form of tobacco in 1864-1865.

The Development of White Burley Tobacco, 1860-1880

White Burley, now just "burley", the largest of America's leaf crops, had a rather inauspicious beginning at this then relatively large farm on the Ohio River. George Barkley's father settled in Kentucky in 1796 on a farm near Augusta, the remains of which now surround the farm being considered for nomination. It was, however, George Barkley himself who would gain national prominence as a tobacco farmer.

His rise to notoriety began on a spring day in 1864 when two tenant farmers, George Webb and Joseph Fore, ran short of tobacco seed for their farm in Brown County, Ohio. They crossed the Ohio River to get seed from Barkley. As the seedlings grew, they were sturdy and fine textured, but the dirty yellow appearance of the leaf prompted the tenants to destroy the plants, believing them unhealthy or dwarfed.

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Section Number 8 Page 2

Barkley, George W., Farm

(BK-21) Bracken County, Kentucky

This was not, however, the end of Barkley's hybrid seed. The following year Webb transplanted one thousand of the plants on his own farm. Allowed to grow to maturity the plants were very healthy and had a cream-colored stalk. Once cured the leaf was bright yellow and smoked "bitter"--dry and lacking the heavy load of natural sweeteners found in other burley strains. It brought an excellent price in the Cincinnati market, won first and second prizes for cutting leaf at the 1867 St. Louis Fair, and brought the amazing price of \$58 a hundredweight.

White Burley quickly replaced the gummy red burley throughout central Kentucky because of a variety of reasons: it was harvested more quickly by stalk-cutting, it required only air for curing (not the flue or smoke curing of the red burley), and it cured more rapidly. All of these factors combined to allow the crop to be brought to market more quickly, a decided advantage to poor farmers in Kentucky.

It is difficult to overestimate the importance of White Burley for the culture of Kentucky. With the advent of cigarette blends using burley in 1913 the crop became practically the sole source of income for many small farmers in the state. By the mid-1960s over 34% of any given blend world-wide was American burley, and Kentucky was by far America's largest producer of burley. The repercussions of the seed developed on this farm in Bracken County have been felt for over 130 years. The advent of White Burley boosted Kentucky production, and it was and still is the key crop of the Bluegrass region (Tobacco Institute 43). Figures from the 1850, 1860, and

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Section Number 8 Page 3

Barkley, George W., Farm

(BK-21) Bracken County, Kentucky

1880 agricultural censuses show the pattern of production in the state. For the year ending June 1, 1850, Kentucky produced 55,501,196 pounds of tobacco. During this time the dark, fire-cured tobacco of Western Kentucky was most prominent, with Christian, (6,312,076 lbs) , Henderson, (4,292,960 lbs), and Daviess (3,426,633 lbs) counties topping the production list. The 1860 census reports the state producing 103,126,810 pounds, with the greatest concentration still in Christian (11,409,016 lbs), Daviess (5,303,470 lbs), and Todd (4,964,796 lbs), all dark tobacco counties. Figures from the 1880 census show the increase in output of all counties, with White Burley counties increasing from under a million pounds to an output of two to six million pounds, as with Bracken, Mason, and Harrison counties. Acreage of production increased in this time as well. The total of 142,000 tobacco-producing acres in 1866 grew to 320,000 in 1875 (Tobacco Institute 45). The thirteen Bluegrass counties-- Anderson, Bourbon, Boyle, Clark, Fayette, Franklin, Garrard, Harrison, Jessamine, Madison, Mercer, Scott, and Woodford--produced 518, 264 pounds of tobacco in 1870, garnering 17% of the state's production revenues (Amos 132). The growing popularity of cigarettes during the last decades of the nineteenth century lead to increase in production. The thirteen Bluegrass counties produced an incredible 4,757,640 pounds in 1899 (Amos 136).

By comparing a series of statistics one can arrive at a reasonable conclusion as to what are typical or atypical tobacco farms. For example, the 1860 census lists the farm of George Barkley (the originator of White Burley seed) in Bracken County as

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Section Number 8 Page 4

Barkley, George W., Farm

(BK-21) Bracken County, Kentucky

being worth \$5,000 with approximately 400 acres. The typical outer Bluegrass *county* in 1919 cultivated between 6,000 and 9,000 acres, giving some indication as to how important Barkley's farm must have been (Davis 85). Also, by 1919 Kentucky was producing 456,500,000 pounds of tobacco (Davis 84). By comparing this figure with the fact that in 1919 the typical outer Bluegrass county was producing approximately 20,000 pounds of tobacco per square mile, and the typical inner Bluegrass county was producing between 50,000 and 70,000 pounds of tobacco, one can see both the importance of the crop for the region and the relative importance of individual farms (Davis 85).

Information concerning the original strains of White Burley has been rather difficult to obtain. Most of the sources that deal with George Barkley in any more than a cursory manner are found in a file of unattributed newspaper articles in the files of the Maysville-Mason County Museum, Maysville, Kentucky. While the information proved invaluable, due to the disorganized nature of these articles it is impossible to cite them individually. The research has been unable to uncover specific documentation that addresses exactly what Barkley was doing to develop this strain of tobacco. For example, we do not know if the development of White Burley was an accident or if it was the culmination of a long process of hybridization. All of the research does point, however, to Barkley and the tenant farmers as being the first to discover the plant.

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Section Number 9 Page 1

Barkley, George W., Farm

(BK-21) Bracken County, Kentucky

Major Bibliographic References

Amos, Christine A. The Bluegrass Cultural Landscape Regional: A Historic Overview. 1988.

This report provides a number of interesting details about the cultural landscape of the Bluegrass region; however, the subject of tobacco is only a small portion of the discussion. A variety of useful production statistics are to be found here.

Davis, Darrell Haug. Geography of the Blue Grass Region. Frankfort, Kentucky: The Kentucky Geological Survey, 1927.

An extremely useful discussion of both the landscape and the crop production of the Bluegrass region. The most useful section was a statistical discussion of tobacco production.

The Tobacco Institute, Inc. Kentucky and Tobacco: A Chapter in America's Industrial Growth. Washington D.C.: The Tobacco Institute Inc., 1962.

A small but highly informative pamphlet that included general definitions, production statistics, and historical details.

Unpublished References

Parker, Elizabeth. Bracken County Historian. Phone: (606) 756-2101.

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Continuation Sheet**

Section Number 9 Page 2

Barkley, George W., Farm

(BK-21) Bracken County, Kentucky

Ms. Parker was extremely helpful in verifying the validity of the property owned by Eugene Hargett as appropriate for nomination.

Maysville-Mason County Museum. Genealogical Library. Phone (606) 564-5865.

Various unattributed newspaper articles were found in the vertical file, dealing both with a general history of tobacco in the area and the Barkley farm in particular.

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Section Number 10 Page 1

Barkley, George W., Farm

(BK-21) Bracken County, Kentucky

Verbal Boundary Description

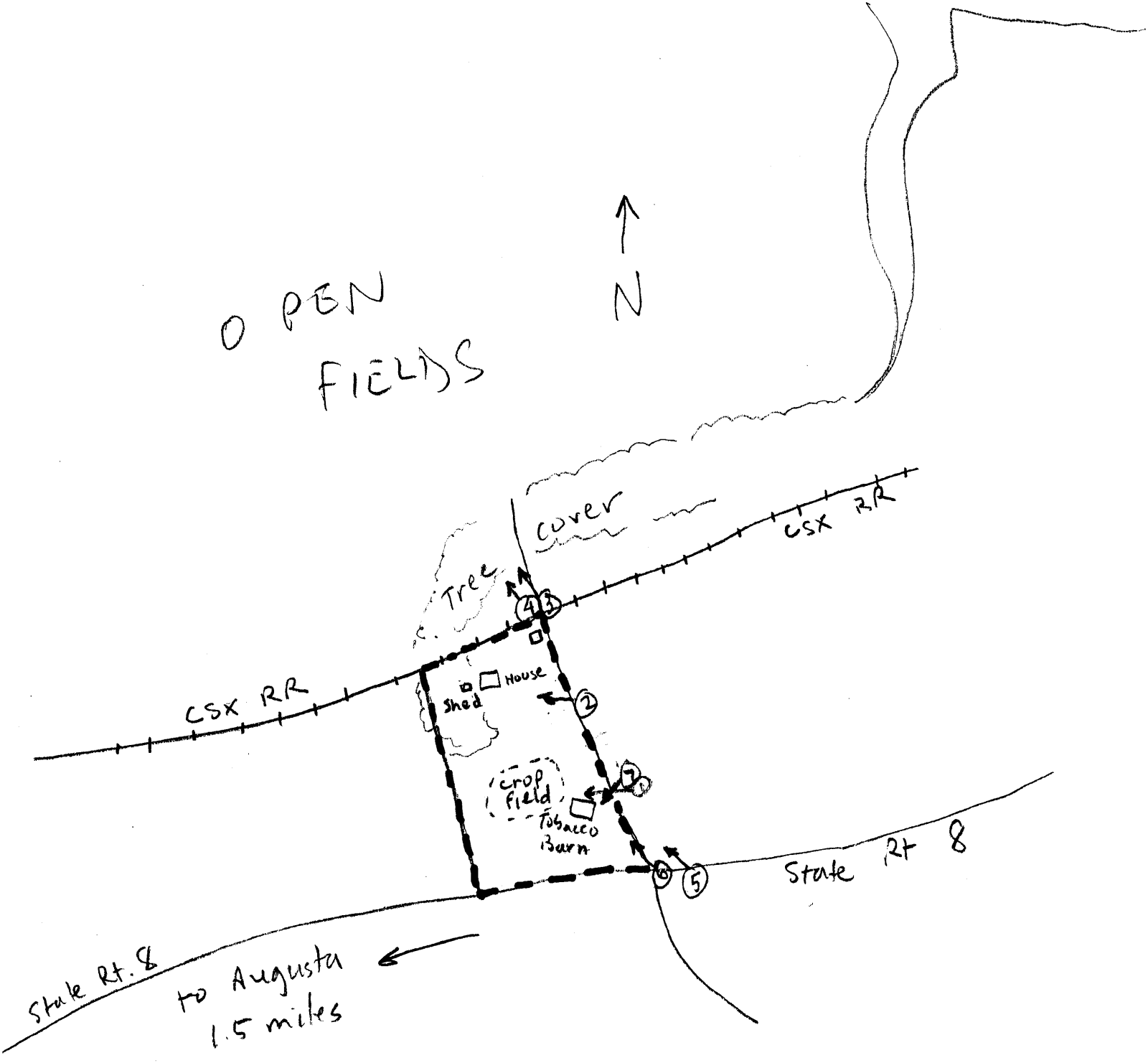
See PVA Map; the property is designated as parcel 7 of Bracken County Property Valuation Assessor map #57

Boundary Justification

Although George W. Barkley's original farm contained over 400 acres, the most logical contemporary site for nomination is the eleven acres on which Colonel William Barkley's house now stands. This is the only site on the 400 acres that contains structures built by members of the original family. Also, documentation suggests that Webb and Fore crossed the Ohio River on a ferry from Higginsport, Ohio, which is directly across the river from the eleven acres currently owned by Eugene Hargett. A local historian, Ms. Elizabeth Parker, confirmed in a conversation with Marty Perry that the property owned by Hargett contains a tobacco field that has been in relative continuous use since Barkley began growing tobacco on the farm. She also believes that this property is undoubtedly the proper site for nomination.

OHIO RIVER

OPEN FIELDS



Approximate scale 1" = 330'

George W. Barkley Farm
Bracken Co., Ky

Sketch map & Photo identification

--- = area proposed for listing

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Section Number ^{photos} Page 1

Barkley, George W., Farm

(BK-21) Bracken County, Kentucky

Photographic Identification Sheet

Same information for all photos:

Name: George Barkley Farm

Location: Bracken County, KY

Photographer: Marty Perry

Date: January, 2003

Location of Negatives: Kentucky Heritage Council, 300 Washington Street, Frankfort, KY 40601

Photograph-specific information:

Photo #	Photo Direction and Content:
Photo 1:	to west: tobacco field at center, tobacco barn at left
Photo 2:	to west: shed behind house
Photo 3:	to northwest: view of fields toward Ohio River taken from CSX tracks. Hills of Ohio in distance
Photo 4:	to northwest: closer view of fields shown in Photo 3
Photo 5:	to northwest: overview shot of farm from State Route 8
Photo 6:	to northwest: view of main house, CSX railroad tracks in the rear
Photo 7:	to southwest: tobacco barn; gable side faces eastward