**NAME**

Jefferson County Multiple Resources Area
Zachary Taylor National Cemetery/Taylor Burial Ground

**LOCATION**

- **4701 Brownsboro Road**
- **Louisville**
- **Fourth**
- **Jefferson 111**

**CLASSIFICATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>OWNERSHIP</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
<th>PRESENT USE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- DISTRICT</td>
<td>- PUBLIC</td>
<td>- OCCUPIED</td>
<td>- AGRICULTURE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- BUILDING(S)</td>
<td>- PRIVATE</td>
<td>- UNOCCUPIED</td>
<td>- COMMERCIAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- STRUCTURE</td>
<td>- BOTH</td>
<td>- WORK IN PROGRESS</td>
<td>- EDUCATIONAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- SITE</td>
<td>- BOTH</td>
<td>- ACCESSIBLE</td>
<td>- PRIVATE RESIDENCE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- OBJECT</td>
<td>- PUBLIC ACQUISITION</td>
<td>- YES: RESTRICTED</td>
<td>- GOVERNMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N/A: IN PROCESS</td>
<td>N/A: BEING CONSIDERED</td>
<td>- YES: UNRESTRICTED</td>
<td>- SCIENTIFIC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- NO</td>
<td>- INDUSTRIAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- TRANSPORTATION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- MILITARY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- OTHER</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**AGENCY**

U.S. Veterans Administration

810 Vermont Avenue, N.W.

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

See Attached

**REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

See Attached
Zachary Taylor, called "Old Rough And Ready," was born on November 24, 1784, at Montebello, Orange County, Virginia, the third child in what would eventually be a family of nine. His father, Lt. Col. Richard Taylor (1744-1829), was a Revolutionary veteran who was later appointed collector of the port of Louisville. He had married Zachary's mother, Sarah Dabney Strother Taylor (1760-1822) in 1779.

Spending his youth in Louisville, then a Kentucky frontier post still menaced by Indians, Zachary Taylor began his military career in 1808, when he was commissioned a first lieutenant in the 7th Infantry. It was near Louisville that Taylor married the former Margaret Mackall Smith (1788-1852) on June 21, 1810. Six children were to be born of their union: Anne, Sarah (who would later elope with and marry Jefferson Davis), Octavia, Margaret, Mary, and Richard.

As captain and major Taylor served in the Northwest Indian campaigns and the War of 1812. Two decades of garrison life were highlighted by an expedition in Illinois against the Indians led by Black Hawk (1832), and in the Second Seminole War (1835-42) in Florida Territory, during which he was brevetted brigadier general for his service in the Battle of Lake Okeechobee.

In 1840, assigned to duty in Louisiana, he established a home in Baton Rouge. The next year he was given a command with headquarters at Ft. Smith, Arkansas. When Texas was annexed in 1845, Taylor took up a position along the southern border of Texas. By the spring of 1846, war with Mexico had broken out, and he moved to the mouth of the Rio Grande and established Ft. Brown.

After defeating the Mexicans at Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma, Texas (May 8 and 9), Taylor set out for Monterrey, capturing it on September 21 and granting an eight weeks' armistice, which President James K. Polk disapproved. Taylor's letter of November 5 to Gen. E.P. Gaines criticizing Polk and his Secretary of War, William L. Marcy, found its way into the press, bringing a rebuke from the Secretary of War.

The following February, Taylor won a brilliant victory over the Mexican commander, Gen. Antonio de Santa Anna, at Buena Vista, Mexico. Although Taylor's superior, Gen. Winfield Scott, had taken most of Taylor's seasoned troops away from him and he was outnumbered four to one, Taylor had won the north of Mexico.

Whig politicians had become increasingly convinced of Taylor's Presidential potentialities. At their convention in 1848, Taylor, who had been too busy soldiering to ever vote and who had never lived long enough in one place to satisfy eligibility requirements anyway, was nominated for President. In an effort to placate the Northern wing of the party, Millard Fillmore of New York was nominated for Vice President. Taylor inadvertently refused to receive the letter informing him of his nomination when it was delivered to his Louisiana home because it was marked "postage due," and he never accepted unpaid-for mail.
### SIGNIFICANCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PERIOD</th>
<th>AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE — CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PREHISTORIC: 1400-1499</td>
<td><em>ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGRICULTURE: 1600-1699</td>
<td><em>COMMUNITY PLANNING</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMMUNICATIONS: 1800-1899</td>
<td><em>LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1900-1999</td>
<td><em>RELIGION</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>ARCHITECTURE</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>ECONOMICS</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>EDUCATION</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>ENGINEERING</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>INVENTION</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>MILITARY</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>MUSIC</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>PHILOSOPHY</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>POLITICS/GOVERNMENT</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>SCIENCE</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>SOCIETY/HUMANITARIAN</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>TRANSPORTATION</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>THEATER</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>OTHER (SPECIFY)</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPECIFIC DATES</th>
<th>BUILDER/ARCHITECT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

See Attached Kentucky Historic Resources Inventory Form

Taylor was returned the victor in the election of 1848, defeating the Democratic nominee, Lewis Cass, and his running mate, William O. Butler, with 47.2 percent of the vote. He was inaugurated on March 5, 1849. Intending to be non-partisan, President Taylor soon took it as his duty to build up the Whig Party by means of patronage.

Taylor's most perplexing problem was the status of the newly acquired Mexican territory. When Congress met in December 1849, Southern representatives opposed Taylor's proposal for statehood for California, which had prohibited slavery. In other areas, also, his administration was running into trouble. His Secretary of War, George W. Crawford, was accused of benefiting financially by successfully using his official position to pursue a claim before Secretary of the Treasury William M. Meredith. Deeply humiliated, Taylor, who prided himself on honesty, determined to reorganize his Cabinet. Before he could do so, other events intervened.

On July 4, 1850, the 65-year-old Taylor spent hours in the hot sun during Independence Day ceremonies at the base of the Washington Monument. Upon his return to the White House he felt very hungry and ate some fruit or vegetables or both while downing iced milk and water. Shortly thereafter, he was stricken with gastroenteritis, the symptoms of which quickly became acute. On the night of July 9, Taylor died.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY.**

Brainerd Dyer, *Zachary Taylor* (1946)

Holman Hamilton, *Zachary Taylor, Soldier of the Republic* (1941), and *Zachary Taylor, Soldier in the White House* (1951).
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Attached Kentucky Historic Resources Inventory Form

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 16.4

UTM REFERENCES:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>17, 21</th>
<th>0</th>
<th>4, 2</th>
<th>3, 7</th>
<th>4, 8</th>
<th>0</th>
<th>D</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CODE</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5, 0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4, 2</td>
<td>3, 7</td>
<td>4, 4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>CODE</th>
<th>COUNTY</th>
<th>CODE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE: Mary Jean Kinsman, Researcher

ORGANIZATION: Jefferson County Office of Historic Preservation

ADDRESS: 100 Fiscal Court Building

CITY OR TOWN: Louisville, Kentucky

DATE: 28 Sept. 1979

CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES ☑️ NO ☐ NONE ☐

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

DATE: 8 Sept. 1983

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
Jefferson County Multiple Resource Area:

1. Historic Name(s)
   Zachary Taylor National Cemetery/Taylor Burial Ground
2. Original Owner
   Col. Richard Taylor
3. Present Name
   Zachary Taylor National Cemetery
4. Owner's Name
   United States of America
5. Owner's Address
   Veterans Administration, National Cemetery System, Washington, D.C.
6. Location
   4701 Brownsboro Road, Louisville, Ky.
7. Open to Public
   Yes
8. Visible from road
   Yes
9. Ownership
   Federal
10. Site Plan with North Arrow
    B11 L88
11. Architect
    Unknown
12. Builder
    Unknown
13. Date
    1926-1928
14. Style
    Unknown
15. Original Use
    National Cemetery
16. Present Use
    National Cemetery
17. Condition
    Interior Excellent
    Exterior Excellent
18. Description
   The Zachary Taylor National Cemetery includes approximately 16.43 acres of land. Within the boundaries of the cemetery is the Taylor family graveyard. President Zachary Taylor (1784-1850) is buried outside the area of the family graveyard in a tomb erected in 1926. His original burial tomb is still inside the family cemetery. Also within the cemetery (SEE NEXT PAGE)
19. History
   The site of the Zachary Taylor National Cemetery was once part of Col. Richard Taylor's farm, "Springfields," where he settled in the late 1700s. President Zachary Taylor lived at Springfields as a child. Some years after his death in 1850, his body was brought back to Kentucky and buried in the family graveyard. By 1879 the farm had passed out (SEE NEXT PAGE)
20. Significance
   The Zachary Taylor National Cemetery includes the burial site of Zachary Taylor, 12th President of the United States, who also served in the U.S. Army for 40 years with distinguished service in the Black Hawk War (1832), the Seminole War (1830s), and the Mexican War (SEE NEXT PAGE)
21. Source of Information
   Thatcher, Hon. Maurice H. Speeches in the House of Representatives, 16 February 1925 and 28 June 1926.
(SEE NEXT PAGE)
18. continued

boundaries are a stone residence for the superintendent and auxiliary buildings erected in the late 1920s.

19. continued

of the Taylor family. The Commonwealth of Kentucky purchased a one-half acre plot adjacent to the family graveyard and a narrow tract leading from the site out to Brownsboro Road. In 1881 the Commonwealth erected a granite monument on the site. However neither the State nor Federal government maintained the burial site.

In the 1920s a movement, headed by Congressman Maurice H. Thatcher of Kentucky and the Louisville Outdoor Art League, was begun to have the Taylor burial site acquired and maintained by the Federal government as part of a national cemetery. In 1926 the two small tracts acquired by the Commonwealth were transferred to the Federal government. A new tomb was constructed and the remains of President Taylor and his wife were reinterred in this vault. In 1927 the surrounding 15 acres of land were purchased by the Commonwealth and in 1928 this land was transferred to the Federal government upon the establishment, by Act of Congress, of the Zachary Taylor National Cemetery.

20. continued

which ended in 1848.

21. continued

Jefferson County (KY) Deed Books

25. UTM Reference

A. 16/618720/4237080
B. 16/618500/4237440
C. 16/618620/4237540
D. 16/618840/4237180

Midpoint = 16/618680/4237300