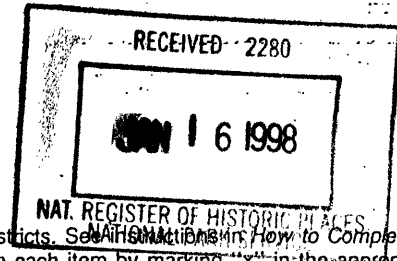


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



94

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 Penn's Store

other names/site number BO-404

2. Location

street & number 1/10 mi. W of SR 243, on Boyle/Casey Co.'s line NA not for publication

city or town Gravel Switch vicinity

state Kentucky code KY county Boyle County code 021 zip code 40328

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, KHC 1-13-98
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office

State or 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): _____

Edson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

2/12/98

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property (Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

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

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

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows for buildings, sites, structures, objects, 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)

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

- COMMERCE/TRADE: General Store, GOVERNMENT: Post Office, HEALTHCARE: Medical Business

COMMERCE/TRADE: General Store

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

No Style

foundation Stone

walls Wood: Board and Batten

roof Metal

other

Narrative Description

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

See 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)

COMMERCE

Period of Significance

1850-1946

Significant Dates

1850

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

See 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:

Name of Property

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

Gravel Switch Quadrangle

1	16	674200	4157480
Zone	Easting	Northing	
2			

3			
Zone	Easting	Northing	
4			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

See Continuation Sheets

Boundary Justification See Continuation Sheets

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

11. Form Prepared By

name Amanda Bradley, Historian and Christine Amos, Historian

organization Burry & Amos, Inc. (Heart of Danville, Inc.) date November 21, 1996

street & number 926 Main Street telephone (502) 633-5530

city or town Shelbyville state Kentucky zip code 40065

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 Alma Lane

street & number 2776 Little South Road telephone _____

city or town Gravel Switch state Kentucky zip code 40328

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.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1

Penn's Store (BO-404)
Boyle County, KY

7. Description

Penn's Store is located in the vicinity of the rural community of Gravel Switch in Boyle County, Kentucky within the floodplain of the North Rolling Fork River. The one-room, frame store sits near the intersection of State Route 37 and State Route 243 on the Boyle/Casey County lines. Serving the local, rural Forkland community since its construction in 1850, the store sits on a parcel of agricultural land fronted by farm acreage. The property initially included the Penn homestead, a log house dating from the nineteenth century, however that building burned down in the 1980s. The store meets National Register of Historic Places Criterion A, and is significant as the only remaining mid-nineteenth century general store in southwestern Boyle County, reputedly being "The Oldest Country Store West of the Allegheny Mountains" (Penn's Store Pamphlet). The store building is being nominated to the National Register, as an adjacent outdoor privy does not contribute to the historic significance of the site property. The building, described below, remains one of few extant examples of mid-nineteenth century, rural commercial stores in the region.

The store is sited with its rear elevation backed to a knob (a large hill) and facing the North Rolling Fork River. It is a one-story, box frame, gable front building with board and batten siding and a south side extended shed. The roof is clad with standing seam metal. A three bay front faces east with a full-length shed porch supported by square wood posts and a tongue-in-groove floor. The central vertical plank entry door has a wood screen door and is flanked by 4/4 sash windows. The one-bay shed to the south has a paneled wood door and single sash window with four panes. All windows have plain wood surrounds and sills. The building sits on a continuous stone foundation.

The building's interior retains much of its historical fabric and appearance as a single open room with original wood counters and shelving along the side and rear walls. The shelving is of plain, circular sawn boards. There is a narrow tongue-and-groove board ceiling, a central entry door on the rear wall, and a centrally-located wood burning stove that is removed during months of the warm season. The shed is a narrow room with wood floors and vertical plank walls and is used for storage.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 2Penn's Store (BO-404)
Boyle County, KY

8. Statement of Significance

Penn's Store (BO-404), located in the extreme southwest corner of Boyle County, between front hills of the Knobs and the North Rolling Fork River, meets National Register of Historic Places Criterion A, and is a significant example of a rural, nineteenth century commercial building within the historic context of "History of Penn's Store, 1850-1946". Penn's Store has served as a small commercial and social magnet for residents in the Forkland Region of Boyle County since its circa 1850s construction, offering dry goods and farm supplies for sale, while also housing a post office and dentist office. The store retains excellent historic integrity and remains the sole operating historic business of this type in the Knobs area of the county. The property's period of significance spans from its date of construction in 1850 through 1946, when the store operated as a local commercial center under the ownership of the Penn family. As most examples of rural, nineteenth century stores in Kentucky no longer exist with good physical integrity, Penn's Store is an important document of nineteenth century rural commercial practices and building techniques.

The development of small, rural commercial centers throughout the Bluegrass region was visually apparently by the mid-nineteenth century, a result of commerce locating to meet the needs of a surrounding agricultural area. As was common throughout the Bluegrass region, the fertile grounds of Boyle County yielded many agricultural products for its residents. Small, rural communities like Gravel Switch were established away from the county seat of Danville to serve residents of the outlying farms. As a rule, these communities were oriented towards the needs of agriculture and bounded by shared traditions, experiences and places (Amos, 1988: NP). Post offices and small businesses were established at these locations. Such services functioned as a rural community's nucleus; typically the business owners lived in the commercial building or in houses adjacent to or near the stores.

The rural community of Gravel Switch is a loosely defined geographic area in the valley of the North Rolling Fork River in the southwest corner of Boyle County. The Gravel Switch area was occupied by Virginia settlers who raised mainly tobacco and corn (Forkland Community History Committee, 1988: 4). The settlers used locally abundant stone and wood from the forested Knobs to construct homes and agricultural buildings. The community was virtually inaccessible during winter months as no all-weather roads traversed the Knobs. The remote location, the rolling

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 3Penn's Store (BO-404)
Boyle County, Kentucky

terrain of the region, and marginal soils resulted in a mostly subsistence level of farming for many decades. The area remained fairly isolated from outside trade until the mid-nineteenth century arrival of the Louisville and Nashville (L&N) Railroad. The railroad brought a variety of new material goods from outside the region and gave farmers access to larger markets.

In 1850, M.W. "Dick" Penn and son, Martin, purchased a small, recently built store that replaced an earlier store built in 1843. Located in close proximity to the river and the main road bed leading to Gravel Switch, the store served residents located in the southeastern outskirts of the community, offering food, farm supplies, sewing goods and other notions. From the L&N station house in Gravel Switch, commercial goods were unloaded and transported overland approximately two miles southeast to Penn's Store. Known in early days as "Rollings", the store also served as a post office in 1886 with Dick Penn serving as postmaster. Penn was also licensed by the Commonwealth to practice medicine and prescribe drugs and also practiced dentistry. Dick and Martin Penn operated the store until 1933 when Martin's five sons and five daughters took over.

The building stands today much like it did in 1850, a one-story, frame, gable front, one-room building with a single bay side shed. The store remains remarkably unaltered, perhaps because it has never undergone a change in ownership. A log house owned by the Penn family stood south of the store until it burned in the 1980s. A recently constructed privy stands near the store with an herb garden separating the two buildings. The store is no longer the only "general store" in the Forkland region, yet by far, it is the most famous as it claims to be "The Oldest Country Store West of the Allegheny Mountains" (Penn's Store Pamphlet). The store has been featured in newspaper and magazine articles across the United States, most recently Southern Living, and is the host of the annual "Penn's Store Great Outhouse Blowout", a local music and crafts festival.

Owned and operated by the Penn family since 1850, Penn's Store remains an important part of the Gravel Switch community and is locally significant for its role as a long-established place for commerce and trade and as a rare, surviving example of a modest, one-room general store serving a rural community in the Knobs Region, the outer Bluegrass of Kentucky.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 4

Penn's Store (BO-404)
Boyle County, KY

9. Bibliography

Amos, Christine. Bluegrass Cultural Landscape. Unpublished manuscript on file at The Kentucky Heritage Council, 1988.

Cronan, Mary and David Morgan. Kentucky Historic Resources Inventory Form, 1976. On File at The Kentucky Heritage Council.

Forkland Community History Committee, Brenda S. Edwards, chairman. Forkland Heritage, Its People Past and Present, 1793-1988. Volume One. Marceline, Missouri: Walsworth Publishing Company, 1988.

Penn's Store Brochure, 1995.

Worshem, Gibson. 1991 Boyle County Historic Resources Survey. On file at The Kentucky Heritage Council, 1991.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 5

Penn's Store (BO-404)
Boyle County, KY

10. Verbal Boundary Description

Penn's Store is located in the extreme southwest corner of Boyle County, along the Knobs and the North Rolling Fork River. Situated west of State Route 243, the nominated property includes the gable front, frame commercial building, constructed in 1850, and shown on Casey County Property Identification Map 29, Parcel 2 in the Casey County Property Value Administration Office. The nomination includes only the store building, located on the western edge of Parcel 2, and not the associated acreage.

Boundary Justification

Penn's Store has historically been associated with land owned by the Penn Family since the mid-nineteenth century. Originally, the land also included farm acreage and a main residence. The store is located on the central western edge of the property, fronted by a gravel driveway.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number PHOTOS Page 6

Penn's Store (BO-404)
Boyle County, KY

PHOTOGRAPHS

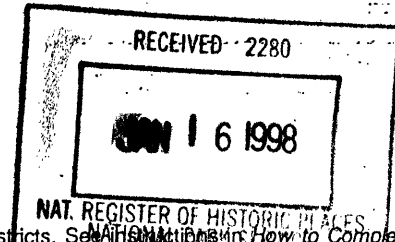
Penn's Store, Boyle County, KY
Photographs by: C. Amanda Bradley
Burry & Amos, Inc.
926 Main Street
Shelbyville, KY 40065

Date: November, 1996

Penn's Store, East (front) facade and south side shed
1 of 1

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



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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 Penn's Store

other names/site number BO-404

2. Location

street & number 1/10 mi. W of SR 243, on Boyle/Casey Co.'s line NA not for publication

city or town Gravel Switch vicinity

state Kentucky code KY county Boyle County code 021 zip code 40328

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, KHC 1-13-98
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

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): _____

Edson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

2/12/98

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property (Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

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

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

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing and 4 rows: buildings, sites, structures, objects, 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)

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

- COMMERCE/TRADE: General Store, GOVERNMENT: Post Office, HEALTHCARE: Medical Business

COMMERCE/TRADE: General Store

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

No Style

foundation Stone

walls Wood: Board and Batten

roof Metal

other

Narrative Description

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

See 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)

COMMERCE

Period of Significance

1850-1946

Significant Dates

1850

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

See 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:

Name of Property

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

Gravel Switch Quadrangle

1	16	674200	4157480
Zone	Easting	Northing	
2			

3			
Zone	Easting	Northing	
4			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

See Continuation Sheets

Boundary Justification See Continuation Sheets

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

11. Form Prepared By

name Amanda Bradley, Historian and Christine Amos, Historian

organization Burry & Amos, Inc. (Heart of Danville, Inc.) date November 21, 1996

street & number 926 Main Street telephone (502) 633-5530

city or town Shelbyville state Kentucky zip code 40065

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 Alma Lane

street & number 2776 Little South Road telephone _____

city or town Gravel Switch state Kentucky zip code 40328

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.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1

Penn's Store (BO-404)
Boyle County, KY

7. Description

Penn's Store is located in the vicinity of the rural community of Gravel Switch in Boyle County, Kentucky within the floodplain of the North Rolling Fork River. The one-room, frame store sits near the intersection of State Route 37 and State Route 243 on the Boyle/Casey County lines. Serving the local, rural Forkland community since its construction in 1850, the store sits on a parcel of agricultural land fronted by farm acreage. The property initially included the Penn homestead, a log house dating from the nineteenth century, however that building burned down in the 1980s. The store meets National Register of Historic Places Criterion A, and is significant as the only remaining mid-nineteenth century general store in southwestern Boyle County, reputedly being "The Oldest Country Store West of the Allegheny Mountains" (Penn's Store Pamphlet). The store building is being nominated to the National Register, as an adjacent outdoor privy does not contribute to the historic significance of the site property. The building, described below, remains one of few extant examples of mid-nineteenth century, rural commercial stores in the region.

The store is sited with its rear elevation backed to a knob (a large hill) and facing the North Rolling Fork River. It is a one-story, box frame, gable front building with board and batten siding and a south side extended shed. The roof is clad with standing seam metal. A three bay front faces east with a full-length shed porch supported by square wood posts and a tongue-in-groove floor. The central vertical plank entry door has a wood screen door and is flanked by 4/4 sash windows. The one-bay shed to the south has a paneled wood door and single sash window with four panes. All windows have plain wood surrounds and sills. The building sits on a continuous stone foundation.

The building's interior retains much of its historical fabric and appearance as a single open room with original wood counters and shelving along the side and rear walls. The shelving is of plain, circular sawn boards. There is a narrow tongue-and-groove board ceiling, a central entry door on the rear wall, and a centrally-located wood burning stove that is removed during months of the warm season. The shed is a narrow room with wood floors and vertical plank walls and is used for storage.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 2Penn's Store (BO-404)
Boyle County, KY

8. Statement of Significance

Penn's Store (BO-404), located in the extreme southwest corner of Boyle County, between front hills of the Knobs and the North Rolling Fork River, meets National Register of Historic Places Criterion A, and is a significant example of a rural, nineteenth century commercial building within the historic context of "History of Penn's Store, 1850-1946". Penn's Store has served as a small commercial and social magnet for residents in the Forkland Region of Boyle County since its circa 1850s construction, offering dry goods and farm supplies for sale, while also housing a post office and dentist office. The store retains excellent historic integrity and remains the sole operating historic business of this type in the Knobs area of the county. The property's period of significance spans from its date of construction in 1850 through 1946, when the store operated as a local commercial center under the ownership of the Penn family. As most examples of rural, nineteenth century stores in Kentucky no longer exist with good physical integrity, Penn's Store is an important document of nineteenth century rural commercial practices and building techniques.

The development of small, rural commercial centers throughout the Bluegrass region was visually apparently by the mid-nineteenth century, a result of commerce locating to meet the needs of a surrounding agricultural area. As was common throughout the Bluegrass region, the fertile grounds of Boyle County yielded many agricultural products for its residents. Small, rural communities like Gravel Switch were established away from the county seat of Danville to serve residents of the outlying farms. As a rule, these communities were oriented towards the needs of agriculture and bounded by shared traditions, experiences and places (Amos, 1988: NP). Post offices and small businesses were established at these locations. Such services functioned as a rural community's nucleus; typically the business owners lived in the commercial building or in houses adjacent to or near the stores.

The rural community of Gravel Switch is a loosely defined geographic area in the valley of the North Rolling Fork River in the southwest corner of Boyle County. The Gravel Switch area was occupied by Virginia settlers who raised mainly tobacco and corn (Forkland Community History Committee, 1988: 4). The settlers used locally abundant stone and wood from the forested Knobs to construct homes and agricultural buildings. The community was virtually inaccessible during winter months as no all-weather roads traversed the Knobs. The remote location, the rolling

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 3Penn's Store (BO-404)
Boyle County, Kentucky

terrain of the region, and marginal soils resulted in a mostly subsistence level of farming for many decades. The area remained fairly isolated from outside trade until the mid-nineteenth century arrival of the Louisville and Nashville (L&N) Railroad. The railroad brought a variety of new material goods from outside the region and gave farmers access to larger markets.

In 1850, M.W. "Dick" Penn and son, Martin, purchased a small, recently built store that replaced an earlier store built in 1843. Located in close proximity to the river and the main road bed leading to Gravel Switch, the store served residents located in the southeastern outskirts of the community, offering food, farm supplies, sewing goods and other notions. From the L&N station house in Gravel Switch, commercial goods were unloaded and transported overland approximately two miles southeast to Penn's Store. Known in early days as "Rollings", the store also served as a post office in 1886 with Dick Penn serving as postmaster. Penn was also licensed by the Commonwealth to practice medicine and prescribe drugs and also practiced dentistry. Dick and Martin Penn operated the store until 1933 when Martin's five sons and five daughters took over.

The building stands today much like it did in 1850, a one-story, frame, gable front, one-room building with a single bay side shed. The store remains remarkably unaltered, perhaps because it has never undergone a change in ownership. A log house owned by the Penn family stood south of the store until it burned in the 1980s. A recently constructed privy stands near the store with an herb garden separating the two buildings. The store is no longer the only "general store" in the Forkland region, yet by far, it is the most famous as it claims to be "The Oldest Country Store West of the Allegheny Mountains" (Penn's Store Pamphlet). The store has been featured in newspaper and magazine articles across the United States, most recently Southern Living, and is the host of the annual "Penn's Store Great Outhouse Blowout", a local music and crafts festival.

Owned and operated by the Penn family since 1850, Penn's Store remains an important part of the Gravel Switch community and is locally significant for its role as a long-established place for commerce and trade and as a rare, surviving example of a modest, one-room general store serving a rural community in the Knobs Region, the outer Bluegrass of Kentucky.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 4

Penn's Store (BO-404)
Boyle County, KY

9. Bibliography

Amos, Christine. Bluegrass Cultural Landscape. Unpublished manuscript on file at The Kentucky Heritage Council, 1988.

Cronan, Mary and David Morgan. Kentucky Historic Resources Inventory Form, 1976. On File at The Kentucky Heritage Council.

Forkland Community History Committee, Brenda S. Edwards, chairman. Forkland Heritage, Its People Past and Present, 1793-1988. Volume One. Marceline, Missouri: Walsworth Publishing Company, 1988.

Penn's Store Brochure, 1995.

Worshem, Gibson. 1991 Boyle County Historic Resources Survey. On file at The Kentucky Heritage Council, 1991.

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Penn's Store (BO-404)
Boyle County, KY

10. Verbal Boundary Description

Penn's Store is located in the extreme southwest corner of Boyle County, along the Knobs and the North Rolling Fork River. Situated west of State Route 243, the nominated property includes the gable front, frame commercial building, constructed in 1850, and shown on Casey County Property Identification Map 29, Parcel 2 in the Casey County Property Value Administration Office. The nomination includes only the store building, located on the western edge of Parcel 2, and not the associated acreage.

Boundary Justification

Penn's Store has historically been associated with land owned by the Penn Family since the mid-nineteenth century. Originally, the land also included farm acreage and a main residence. The store is located on the central western edge of the property, fronted by a gravel driveway.

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Penn's Store (BO-404)
Boyle County, KY

PHOTOGRAPHS

Penn's Store, Boyle County, KY
Photographs by: C. Amanda Bradley
Burry & Amos, Inc.
926 Main Street
Shelbyville, KY 40065

Date: November, 1996

Penn's Store, East (front) facade and south side shed
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