

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAY 30 1978
DATE ENTERED DEC 15 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Doe Run Creek Historic District

AND/OR COMMON
Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Approx. 4 miles southeast of Brandenburg between Highway 448 and Highway 1638

CITY, TOWN
VICINITY OF Brandenburg CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 02

STATE Kentucky CODE 021 COUNTY Meade CODE 163

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT (7 bldgs)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Estate of Lucy Coleman Smith

STREET & NUMBER
Doe Run Inn, Route 2

CITY, TOWN
Brandenburg VICINITY OF STATE Kentucky

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Meade County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN
Brandenburg STATE Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky

DATE
1971 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Kentucky Heritage Commission

CITY, TOWN
Frankfort STATE Kentucky

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Doe Run Creek, a mountain-like stream, originates several miles south of Brandenburg, the county seat of Meade County, and flows about four miles before emptying into the Ohio River. The historic district is composed of seven structures which are situated in a valley within a mile stretch along the stream. Included are two 19th century stone mills, three residences, a dam and a hydro-electric plant.

(1) The oldest of the two mills in the district, now called Doe Run Inn, was constructed prior to 1792. It is set in a valley along the west bank of Doe Run, with the gable end facing the creek. The three-story structure with a full attic and basement is constructed of field stone laid in random courses (see photos 1, 2, 5, 6, and 7). The mill race, composed of stone walls which rise three feet above ground level, extended from the south side of the mill several hundred feet to the dam (see photos 3 and 4). (Although a large portion of the race remains, the section closest to the mill has been reinforced with cement.)

Around 1821 a three-bay, two-story stone wing with attic and basement was added to the west end of the original portion. Both sections have a box cornice extending along the north and south sides. The windows set in pegged frames, have six-over-six pane sash with stone voussoirs above. The doors are board and batten. In the 1920s a cinderblock chimney was added to the west end of the wing and enclosed porches were added to the north and east sides of the original block (see photo 5). A third frame addition was made off the south side.

Although the undershot water wheel and other mill machinery are no longer contained in the structure, the original flooring and system of structural support remain intact. Each level is carried by two, 2' x 2' beams that span the entire length of the structure. The beams are braced by horizontal intermediates on stout chamfered posts (see photo 7).

(2) Log House

Located a hundred yards southwest of the mill on a gentle slope is the log house. Believed to have been constructed at the same time as the mill, the house is a single one-and-one-half story log pen with square notches on a stone foundation (see photo 8). It appears that shortly after the one and a half story pen was completed, a double log pen was added off the east side, connected to the original pen by a dog trot. At the present time a brick smoke stack is centered in the double pen (see photo 9). It appears that in the 1920s, a third pen was added on the north. It too has square notches and is in keeping with the original portion of the structure.

(3) Smith Coleman House

Situated in the creek bottom, an eighth of a mile northeast of the mill, is the Smith-Coleman House. It is a five-bay, two-story Greek Revival frame structure on a

(continued)

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Doe Run Creek Historic District, located in an area of early settlement in Meade County, is composed of three residences, two nineteenth century stone mills important in the early and later economy of the community, and the first hydro-electric plant constructed in Meade County to supply electricity for Brandenburg, the county seat. The Essery mill, part of the nominated complex, has additional historical importance in being one of the first mills in Kentucky.

Doe Run Creek was discovered in 1778 by Squire Boone, Daniel Boone's brother, and John McKinney. In 1780 Squire Boone entered a claim for 1,000 acres at the spring of Doe Run for Joseph Helms and the land patent was granted in 1786 by Governor Patrick Henry of Virginia. In October, 1780, Samuel Wells, Sr., entered a claim for 500 acres on Doe Run Creek, and in January, 1783, Squire Boone entered a claim for 6,000 acres just below the mouth of the creek.

In time a small community developed named Little York, and known as such until the late 19th century when it came to be called Doe Run. Prior to 1792 the oldest of the two mills in the district was constructed by Jonathan Essery below the mouth of the Blue Springs Branch of Doe Run Creek. Washington Coleman, who later owned Essery's mill, built the Smith-Coleman House and the Wash Coleman House in the Doe Run Creek Historic District in the latter part of the nineteenth century. William D. Coleman, his son, constructed and operated the hydro-electric plant in 1906.

Doe Run Inn

What is presently known as Doe Run Inn, the oldest of the two mills in the district, was constructed prior to 1792 by Jonathan Essery below the mouth of the Blue Springs Branch of Doe Run Creek. Essery purchased the site upon which he built the under-shot corncracker mill from Philip Jenkins. Several years later the mill was purchased by Jesse Brown and Calvin Hurd. In 1819 Thomas Stevenson purchased the mill from Brown, and ca. 1821, he constructed a two-story stone addition to the mill.

Over the years the mill continued in operation as a grist, flour and grain mill. Sometime after the Civil War the mill was purchased by Washington Coleman, who operated it as a flour and grain mill until 1900. In 1900 the mill was converted into a summer resort, popular for the mineral and sulphur water in the area. The old mill structure served as a summer resort until 1927 when it became the Doe Run Inn. The Inn is now owned by Mrs. H. Curtis Brown, great-granddaughter of Washington Coleman, who continues to operate it as a restaurant and inn.

(continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Clift, G. Glenn. Second Census of Kentucky, 1800. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1886.

Collins, Richard H. Historical Sketches of Kentucky. Covington: By the author, 1877.

(continued)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately 79 acres

E) 16/576480/4201040

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,6	57,723,0	4,20,156,0	B	1,6	57,689,0	4,20,042,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1,6	57,651,0	4,20,012,0	D	1,6	57,635,0	4,20,036,0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point 400 feet northeast of Highway 1638 on Doe Run Creek; thence 6,000 feet south along the east bank of Doe Run; thence northwest 1,000 feet; thence 2,200 feet northeast to a point on a power line; thence, 2,200 feet northeast to the beginning point.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mary Cronan Oppel, Historian; Gus Johnson, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Kentucky Heritage Commission

DATE

February 1978

STREET & NUMBER

104 Bridge Street

TELEPHONE

(502) 564-3741

CITY OR TOWN

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Cedric W. Melton

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

5/23/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ATTEST:

Charles R. ...
W. H. ...

DATE

12-19-78

DATE

12/12/78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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stone foundation. A lower two-story ell extends off the rear. Interior brick chimneys are placed at each end of the main block. A denticulated cornice extends across the facade and returns at the end. Sheltering the front entrance is a one-story, one-bay, porch supported by paired posts. The dentils decorating the porch reflect those of the cornice (see photo 10). Extending across the east side of the ell is a two-story gallery with an exterior staircase (see photo 11). The main entrance in the center bay of the facade is composed of a two-light transom and seven-pane sidelights. The shuttered windows have six-over-six pane sash.

The floor plan consists of a central hall with a room off each side. A simple Greek Revival staircase with a tapered octagonal newel post rises on the south side of the hall. The interior woodwork around the doors and windows is plain with an entablature above.

(4) Washington Coleman House

The Washington Coleman house built ca. 1880, is located on a rise several hundred yards above the Smith-Coleman house. Facing west, it is a five-bay, one and one half story, frame structure with a steeply pitched roof. Interior brick chimneys are located at the ends. Spanning the center three bays is a one-story porch on chamfered posts. Dentils extend around the porch. The front entrance has a two-light transom and four-pane sidelights. Plain pilasters flank the sidelights and support a denticulated entablature (see photo 12). The Coleman house is based on the one-room, central hall plan.

(5) The Dam and Hydro Electric Plant

An eighth of a mile due east of the Coleman houses is the hydro-electric plant and dam, constructed in 1906. The dam, the only remaining one of three once contained within the district, was also the largest, and is at least ten feet high (see photo 13). The sluice gate, located on the west side of the dam, opens into a tremendous iron pipe, three feet in diameter, set on stone piers. The sluice runs 100 feet to the plant (see photo 14). The plant itself is a one-story frame structure covered with vertical siding (see photo 15). Although most of the machinery has been removed, a set of huge pulleys, without the belts, remain intact.

(6) The Doe Run Mill

The Doe Run Mill, built prior to 1860, is located one-half mile down stream from the hydro-electric plant on the north side of Highway 1638. Set in a ravine, the

(continued)

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imposing structure is built parallel to the creek. The mill is a long rectangular three-story enclosure with shed-roofed extensions off each side (similar to the ecclesiastical form of the center vault and side aisle arrangement). Like the other mill it is constructed of random laid field stone. The machinery has been removed from the mill which is now vacant. On the west side on the second level a larger number of stones were removed to create a larger opening to remove the equipment.

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Log House

The log house is believed to have been constructed at the same time as the mill. The builder is unknown, but possibly could have been Jonathan Essery, builder of the first mill at Doe Run Creek, Philip Jenkins who sold the land to Essery, or James N. Ross, an early settler at Doe Run in 1792.

Smith-Coleman House

The Smith-Coleman House, a two-story Greek Revival structure, was built ca. 1860 for the Smith family by Tom Coleman, a local architect from Brandenburg. William D. Coleman purchased the house circa 1889, and his daughter, Mrs. Lucy R. Smith and her family have continued residing in the house.¹

The Doe Run Mill (Purey-Coleman Mill)

The Doe Run Mill was constructed ca. 1860 of field stone. The builder of the mill is unknown, but possibly could have been Thomas Stevenson who constructed the two-story stone wing addition to the older mill now known as Doe Run Inn. In 1906 William D. Coleman and Dr. Purey operated the Doe Run Flour Mill. Coleman operated the mill until 1930, after which it was used for the storage of hay.²

Washington Coleman House

The Washington Coleman House, a one-and-one half story, frame house, was constructed ca. 1880 by Washington Coleman. Coleman, a carpenter by trade, also built the Smith Coleman House ca. 1860, and operated the older mill, now known as Doe Run Inn, as a grain and flour mill after the Civil War.

The Dam and Hydro-Electric Plant

The dam and the hydro-electric plant on Doe Run Creek were constructed in 1906, by William D. Coleman, son of Washington Coleman. This was the first hydro-electric plant built in Meade County, and the plant supplied electricity for Brandenburg, the county seat until 1930.

¹Mrs. Mabel F. Smith, Brandenburg, Ky.

²Ibid.

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The Doe Run Creek, which forms the eastern boundary of the district, is a significant natural feature that binds the historic district together. In earlier days, settlers found the area highly desirable because the banks of this swift-flowing stream provided excellent mill sites. However, as time progressed and the need for mills diminished, the creek continued to play an important role by providing the power for the hydro-electric plant which supplied electricity to the city of Brandenburg. The scenic beauty of the creek also made it an attractive setting for a resort, with the mill being converted into use as an inn. The huge stone mill, no longer needed for the processing of grain, was also rehabilitated for resort facilities. Thus the creek and the structures along its banks have continued to play a role in the economic development of Meade County. Moreover, the two mills are the only known such structures to survive in Meade County.

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Federal Census of Kentucky (1850).

Meade County Tax Assessment Record (1824-1825).

Perrin, W. H. Kentucky. A History of the State. Chicago and Louisville:
F. A. Battey and Co., 1886.

Ridenour, George. Early Times in Meade County. Louisville: Western
Recorder, 1929.

Doe Run Creek
Historic District

Sketch Map
Not to Scale

A Log House

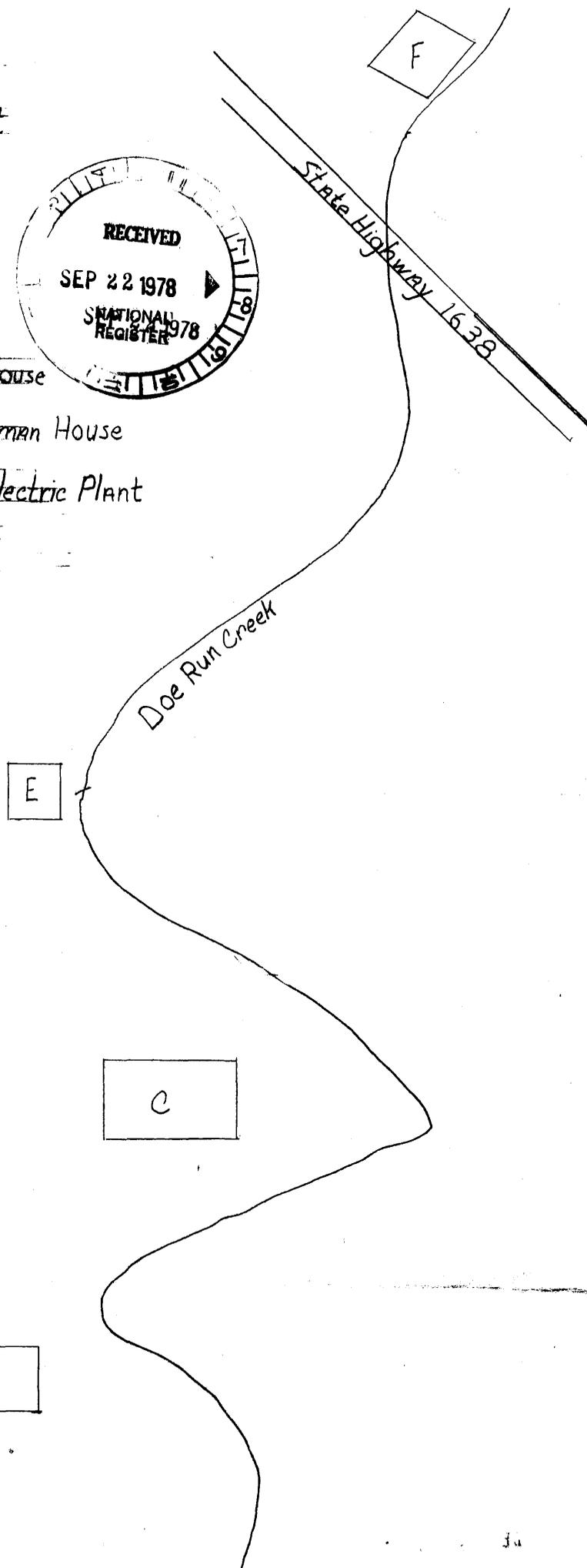
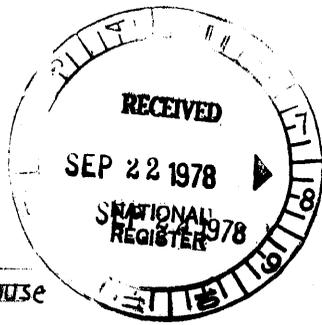
B Doe Run Inn

C Smith Colman House

D Washington Colman House

E Dam & Hydro-Electric Plant

F Doe Run Mill



F

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