



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

651

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name Ross-Hollenbach Farm
other names/site number Stonelea Farm/OL-232

2. Location

street & number 4701 S. Highway 1694 not for publication N/A
city or town Brownsboro vicinity X state Kentucky code KY
county Oldham code 185 zip code 40059

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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
X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant
nationally statewide X locally.

Donna M. Neary
Signature of certifying official **Donna M. Neary, SHPO**

05/23/2008
Date

Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

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 this 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): _____

Patricia Andrews 7/8/2008
Signature of Keeper Date
of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property		
		Contributing	Noncontributing	
X private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	X district	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>7</u>	<u>3</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

NA

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

Cat: Agricultural/Subsistence

Sub: agricultural fields, pasture, agricultural outbuildings

Cat: Domestic

Sub: single dwelling

Current Functions

Cat: Agricultural/Subsistence

Sub: agricultural fields, pasture, agricultural outbuildings

Cat: Domestic

Sub: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification: Federal

Materials foundation STONE
 roof ASPHALT SHINGLE
 walls Stone
 other _____

Narrative Description (See continuation sheets.)

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Section 7 Page 1

Ross-Hollenbach Farm
Oldham County, KY

DESCRIPTION

The Ross-Hollenbach Farm (OL-232) is located in southwestern Oldham County Kentucky near the border with Jefferson County. The farm is located at 4701 South Highway 1694. U.S. Highway 1694 has been identified as a Kentucky "Scenic Highway" in part because of the cultural resources located in this corridor. Communities in close proximity to this resource include Brownsboro and Prospect. The Ross-Hollenbach Farm is part of a larger entity, the 650-acres Stonelea Farm. Stonelea Farm was assembled from 1961-1982 by combining three 20th-century farms identified with the McWilliams, Nanz, and Hollenbach families. The nominated property is the middle of the three farms. Stonelea Farm occupies a portion of the original 2000-acre land grant claimed by Phillip Ross, which is referred to in this nomination as the historic Ross Farm. The name "Ross-Hollenbach Farm" was chosen to acknowledge the 19th- and 20th-century identities of this and surrounding farms. The property proposed for listing contains 242 acres, with six contributing buildings, a contributing site, 2 non-contributing buildings, and 1 non-contributing structures.

The Reuben Ross House, at the center of the area proposed for listing, was considered for listing in the National Register of Historic Places in 1987 within a multiple property nomination entitled "Early Stone Buildings of Kentucky: Outer-Bluegrass and Pennyryle." The house was not listed, however, because the impact of the house's 1947 wings on the house's value as an early stone building, was not fully evaluated. The current nomination of the Ross-Hollenbach Farm focuses on the property's identity as a 20th-century gentleman farm, an important property type in the historic context "Agriculture in Oldham County, Kentucky, 1820-1958."

The entire Ross-Hollenbach Farm is situated on rolling hills that slope down to Cedar Creek at its southern boundary. Approximately eighty percent of the nominated property's acreage is devoted to crop and pasture land, which is located throughout the site. The remaining acreage is an open hardwood woodland. This part of the property remains in a natural state, serving primarily as a wildlife habitat. The northern edge of the property is bounded by Highway 1694. The eastern boundary is defined by the Nanz tract and the western edge of the property abuts the McWilliams tract.

The Reuben Ross House entrance, on **the Ross-Hollenbach Farm tract**, is accessed from South Highway 1694. The entrance is marked by two stone columns and a stone bridge that traverses a small creek. From this bridge the road curves up an incline to the farm complex. The farm road passes through pasture and paddock areas and intersects with an interior farm road that connects with the former McWilliams property, to the east of the nominated property, and with the former Nanz dairy farm, to the west. The Ross-Hollenbach Farm is located at the terminus of that farm road. A pond is located behind the house and farm complex. The Reuben Ross house site takes advantage of the open vistas of this portion of the farm.

Phillip Hollenbach, who purchased the 242-acre tract in 1947, thoroughly re-made the landscape to support thoroughbred operations. He had two wings added to the Federal-era Reuben Ross stone house, had two horse barns and an equipment shed erected, fenced the surrounding paddocks and pastures with three-board panel fencing, built a tenant house for the farm manager, and added a garage to the farm. All of these features were in place by 1950. The non-contributing resources associated with this farm tract include a log house that dates from the Ross period of ownership, which was relocated to its current site during the late-20th century. A non-contributing tenant house is also located on the tract, constructed in the 1960s. There is also a swimming pool located behind the Ross-Hollenbach house, added ca. 1980.

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Ross-Hollenbach Farm
Oldham County, KY

Because the adjacent farms are part of the larger recent farm known as Stonelea, and were part of the larger historic Ross Farm, they are described here, even though they lie outside the area proposed for listing. The **McWilliams Farm** also lies south of State Route 1694. The McWilliams family was related to the Ross family through marriage, establishing their farm east of the Reuben Ross House in the mid-1800s. The property contains several historic features that arose over time. A log house from the Ross Farm period of ownership remains; this house was moved a short distance from its original site in the 1980s. The 19th-century McWilliams house burned circa 1919; the house built to replace was erected in 1919, and is extant today. A masonry smokehouse is adjacent to the house. There is a livestock barn and tobacco barn on the tract, as well as a modern horse barn. A pond is located on this tract near the front entrance. The McWilliams tract was 217 acres, but 100 acres were sold in 1946 to the Sleepy Hollow Country Club and Golf Course. During the latter part of the historic period the property functioned as a tobacco farm with a modest amount of livestock sales, as well.

The **Nanz tract**, immediately west of the property proposed for listing, was originally associated with Sarah Ross. This property has an entrance from State Route 1694 and is connected to the larger Stonelea Farm via interior farm roads. The Nanz family established the property as a dairy in 1923. This tract contains a dairy barn and two silos. A spring house is still extant next to the site of the former Nanz house, which is marked by a stone wall. Numerous tenant houses built in the late-20th century are also on this portion of the Stonelea Farm.

History of the use of the Ross Farm prior to 1900

Historic ownership of the Ross-Hollenbach Farm and adjacent farm tracts are associated with the original 2000-acre Revolutionary War land grant given to Phillip Ross. Reuben Ross was one of Phillip Ross's sons and was a Methodist minister. He came to Kentucky from Virginia in 1806 and was deeded 1000-acres of the original land grant. His family settled on the property and the original stone house was constructed circa 1812. Reuben Ross served as a minister at the Wesley Chapel (OL-240) near Hitt Lane.

The property was subdivided over time to family members of Reuben Ross. A daughter of one of Ross' sons, John, married Joseph McWilliams in 1884. This tract was originally 217-acres and contained the McWilliams house, which burned in 1914. Sarah Ross (Reuben Ross' daughter) owned the 160-acre tract that was on the east side of the Reuben Ross property. She sold it to Martin Adams in 1884. Adams held the property until 1923 when he sold it to the Nanz family.

History of the development of the Ross Farm acreage

The Ross Farm is located approximately two miles west of Brownsboro, situated along the rolling hills of the eastern portion of Oldham County. Cedar Creek runs along the southern boundary of the property and Sleepy Hollow Lake is near the eastern side of the property. Located roughly fifteen miles from Louisville, the Ross Farm is accessed by South Highway 1694 or Old Brownsboro Road. The Ross-Hollenbach farm today is associated with Thoroughbred horses, which developed as a prominent stock type during Oldham County's 20th-century agriculture.

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Ross-Hollenbach Farm
Oldham County, KY

Ross Farm Today in Oldham County

The historic Ross-Hollenbach Farm is now owned by Edward and Cornelia Bonnie. Phillip Hollenbach sold the Bonnies the nominated property in 1961. The Bonnies purchased the Nanz tract from its owners at the time, the Kelley family, in 1962. The last tract added was the McWilliams property, purchased in 1981, completing their assembly of Stonelea farm. The Bonnies continue to raise horses on the farm. The run-in sheds, modern horse barn, 1960 tenant house, and practice track on the nominated acreage were added by the Bonnies. Dairy operations on the Nanz tract were initially continued by the Bonnies, but those operations have since ceased. Four ranch houses were built on this tract for farm workers. Currently, the Bonnies are in the initial stages of establishing a conservation easement for the entire farm.

Most properties identified as Gentleman Farms in Jefferson and Oldham Counties range between 50 –150 acres. The context established for the Gentleman Farm property type in Jefferson County recognizes that the original acreage may or may not be intact. The property type's Registration Requirements prescribe that a sufficient acreage of the farm complex should remain so that it conveys the property type characteristics as outlined in the Description.¹ The 242-acre Ross-Hollenbach Farm site proposed for listing exhibits a high level of integrity as a mid-20th -century gentleman farm.

Property Inventory: Domestic Complex

1. Ross-Hollenbach House, circa 1812 –contributing

Originally constructed for Reuben Ross, this is a two-story, three-bay hall-parlor stone house. The rough-cut stone has a random coursing pattern. The side-gable roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles. Interior chimneys are located on each gable end. A small, one-story porch was added to the entrance most likely during the Hollenbach period.

The main block of the house is flanked by one-story, stone wings which were added during the Hollenbach tenure, and during the Period of Significance. These wings replicated the random coursing pattern found on the original part of the house. Each wing has a side-gable roof sheathed with asphalt shingles. A frame two-story ell constructed after the period of significance is on the rear of the original house. This frame structure is clad with clapboard siding.

2. Hollenbach Tenant House, circa 1947-contributing

Constructed during the Hollenbach period of ownership, this house served as the farm manager's residence. This is a one-story, double pile frame tenant house clad with clapboard siding. The building has a Cape-Cod form with a side-gable roof that is sheathed with asphalt shingles. The three-bay façade has a central door and is flanked by two windows. A central chimney stack pierces the roof line.

3. Garage, circa 1947 – contributing

This is a single story concrete building with two bays to accommodate vehicles. The garage has a gable-front roof with a standing seam metal roof and exposed rafter tails.

¹ Carey, Daniel. Louisville and Jefferson County, Kentucky, Multiple Property listing, Agriculture in Louisville and Jefferson County, the Gentleman Farm Property type, 1989

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Ross-Hollenbach Farm
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4. Log House (moved), circa 1810 - non-contributing
This log house is associated with Reuben Ross period of settlement on the property. The house was originally constructed as a one-story single pen steeple-notched three-bay log house. There is a frame lean-to addition on the north side elevation. The log house has lost integrity since it was relocated from its original site.
5. 1960s Tenant House – non-contributing
Constructed after the period of significance, this is a one-story, double pile frame tenant house clad with clapboard siding. The building has a side-gable roof that is covered with standing seam metal. The roof projects outward over the façade to form a front porch, which is supported by two columns. The five-bay façade has a central door and is flanked by paired windows. There is an attached side garage on the west elevation. The house is located to the east of main house beyond the Hollenbach tenant house.
6. Swimming Pool, circa 1980- non-contributing
This is an in-ground swimming pool with a stone terrace surrounding it. It was constructed after the period of significance. It is located directly behind the main house.

Agricultural Complex:

7. Horse Barn 1, circa 1947-contributing
This is a one-and-a-half story barn constructed with concrete block on the first story and horizontal clapboard siding. It has a Dutch Gambrel gable roof that is covered with standing-seam metal. This barn has a side drive that accesses the stalls. It is located due east of the main house.
8. Horse Barn 2, circa 1947-contributing
This barn is a one-and-a-half story banked barn with concrete block and horizontal clapboard siding. It has a front-gabled, Dutch Gambrel roof has a standing seam metal roof. The barn has a central drive entered through the south elevation. There is a hayloft above the horse stalls in the attic story, accessed on the north elevation. The horse barn is located to the east of the main dwelling.
9. Equipment shed, circa 1947-contributing
This is an L-shaped, one-story barn constructed with concrete block. It has a gable roof covered by standing seam metal. The east elevation features open bays to accommodate farm equipment. The building is located to the southeast of the main house.

Sites:

10. Ross Cemetery-contributing
Ross family cemetery dates to the initial period of settlement on the property. Located to the southwest of the main house.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or a 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 Agriculture

Period of Significance 1947-1958

Significant Dates 1947

Significant Person N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance (See continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References (See 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: _____

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Ross-Hollenbach Farm
Oldham County, KY

Statement of Significance

The Ross-Hollenbach Farm (OL-232) meets National Register eligibility Criterion A and is significant in the Area of Agriculture as a Gentleman Farm property type in Oldham County in the Outer Bluegrass Region of Kentucky. The importance of the farm and the property type is evaluated within the context "Agriculture in Oldham County, Kentucky, c.1820 -1958." Within that context, the Ross-Hollenbach Farm is a significant representative of twentieth-century agricultural trends in Oldham County, showing that thoroughbred horses became the focus farming activity. The Period of Significance is 1947 -1958. The beginning of the Period coincides with the purchase of the farm by Phillip Hollenbach. This signals the beginning of the farm's transformation into a twentieth century gentleman farm agricultural landscape. Hollenbach established horse farm operations in a part of the county that had been traditionally focused on cattle farming. The end date of 1958 is the close of the 50-year period established by the National Register of Historic Places.

Research Design

To evaluate the historic significance of the Ross-Hollenbach Farm, and to understand its role as a twentieth century gentleman farm in Oldham County during the context period, several sources were consulted. In order to construct the historic context, primary and secondary sources were sought to gain an understanding of both agriculture and gentleman farms in Oldham County. Jack Harrison developed an historic context for agriculture in Oldham County with the National Register Nomination for Clifton Farm in 1997. This context, however, had not fully addressed the role of horses in Oldham County's agriculture during the twentieth century. By using newspaper articles, agricultural survey information and county histories, the importance of horses in Oldham County could be shown. The U.S. Agricultural Census was also examined for an understanding of farming in Oldham County during the context period. Maps and atlases provided additional information about farming activities in the county.

Established contexts for Gentleman Farms in Jefferson and Oldham Counties were examined. Daniel Carey's "Louisville and Jefferson County, Kentucky, Multiple Property listing, Agriculture in Louisville and Jefferson County, the Gentleman Farm Property Type," from 1989 provided the outline for the identity of a nineteenth century gentleman farm in Jefferson County. The National Register nomination of Waldeck, authored by Donna Neary in 2000, extended the Jefferson County context for nineteenth century Gentleman Farm northeast, to Oldham County. Neither document fully addressed Oldham County's twentieth-century gentleman farm phenomena. Since the Period of Significance for this nomination occurs only in the twentieth century, alternate sources had to be consulted. It was also felt that the definition of a gentleman farm must be clarified to create a deeper understanding of the property type.

For a general understanding of the gentleman farm in Kentucky, "An Historical Context Statement and Typology of Gentleman Farms for National Register Nomination" was consulted. To gain insight into Kentucky farm types for comparison with gentleman farms, Janie-Rice Brother's Master's Thesis "The Agricultural and Architectural Landscapes of Two Antebellum Montgomery County Farms" provided a thoughtful analysis. To expand this context into the twentieth century, trade journals published during the context period such as *Country Gentleman*, *Progressive Farmer*, and *Country Life*, were examined. Since the identity of the Gentleman Farm in the twentieth century is still being developed, Geographer Karl Raitz was consulted for his opinions on the characteristics of the twentieth century Gentleman Farm property type.

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Ross-Hollenbach Farm
Oldham County, KY

Various local sources were consulted to develop the context for Ross-Hollenbach Farm. The vertical files at the Oldham County Library provided newspaper clippings and accounts concerning the Ross property. Personal interviews and family histories also aided in understanding the creation of Ross-Hollenbach property as a Gentleman Farm.

Agriculture in Oldham County, Kentucky, 1800 - 1958

Oldham County is located in the north-central part of Kentucky in the Outer-Bluegrass region. Oldham comprises 170 square miles, or 108,000 acres. The County is bounded on the north by the Ohio River and Trimble County, Henry County on the east, Shelby and Jefferson Counties on the south, and Jefferson and the Ohio River on the west. In 1823 Oldham County became the 74th county, carved from parts of Jefferson, Shelby and Henry Counties. In 1836, a part of the county was taken to form Trimble County. Oldham County's current boundaries were established by 1856. LaGrange became the county seat in 1838; before then, the seat had been Westport.¹ The Ross-Hollenbach Farm participated in Oldham County agriculture in nineteenth century under the name Ross Farm. Though the nominated farm began in 1947, a brief overview of farming history and cultural impulses in Oldham County, which led up to the farm's creation, in 1947, will be useful.

Early Agriculture in Oldham County

Earliest settlement in the area that became Oldham County occurred in the 1780s and 1790s, nearest the Ohio River. Only a few river settlements were founded, with most settlers preferring interior locales for town-building. Oldham County from its earliest settlement was dependent on agriculture. Early crops grown were corn, wheat, hemp and hay; livestock included cattle, horses and hogs.²

The Ohio River played an early role in transporting goods to market. Numerous landings along Oldham County's border served as shipping points.³ The success of farming in the county was enhanced by the construction of roads for transporting produce and livestock to markets.⁴ The completion of the Lexington and Ohio Railroad provided an additional distribution system for Oldham County's agricultural products. By the 1850s, farmers had responded to needs for produce in nearby Louisville, and began raising poultry, making butter and cheese, and growing fruit and vegetables to ship into the city.⁵

Oldham County Agriculture 1900 – 1958

Oldham County's economy was primarily agricultural until the mid-twentieth century, and was based in several important crops and livestock. Corn, hay, tobacco and orchard grass were the major crops. Fertile soil also made ideal pasturelands for grazing livestock. Beef, dairy cattle, hogs, and horses comprised the major livestock produced in the county.⁶

¹ Robert M. Rennick, "Oldham County" p. 671-674

² Jack Harrison, "Clifton" National Register Nomination, 1997

³ *Oldham County, Kentucky History and Families; The First Century, 1824-1929*. p. 52

⁴ Donna Neary, "Waldeck Farm" National Register Nomination, 2000

⁵ Jack Harrison, "Clifton" National Register Nomination, 1997

⁶ Robert M. Rennick, "Oldham County" p. 672

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Ross-Hollenbach Farm
Oldham County, KY

At the beginning of the twentieth century, Oldham County had 811 total farms, with the average size being 138 acres in 1900. In 1910, Oldham County farms increased to a total of 873 properties. By 1920, the number had jumped almost 25%, to a total of 1086 farmsteads.⁷ Though census data for 1910 and 1920 does not exist for the average size of farms in Oldham County, the average size most likely stayed within the 138-acre range.⁸

By 1930, the total number of farms in Oldham County fell to 783. The average acreage of an Oldham County farm at this time was 139 acres. Despite financial pressures of the Great Depression, the number of farms rose to 922 in 1935. The average acreage declined to 116 acres in 1935. Census enumerators found only 15 farms over 500 acres during this time period. Only 4 farms over 1000 acres were found in the County in 1935.⁹ By 1940, the number of farms in Oldham County had fallen to 802, and the average size had risen to 142.6 acres. A total of 21 farms had acreage between 500 and 1000 acres. Only three farms were listed at over 1000 acres in 1940.¹⁰ These data suggest that the majority of farms in the county before WWII were middling-sized farms.

The number of farms in Oldham County rebounded in 1945 to 915. These farms averaged 132 acres by 1945. The number of large farms with 500 to 1000 acres rose to 24. Farms over 1000 acres increased to five in 1945.¹¹ The shift in size of farms during post-World War II era in Oldham County indicates a trend toward larger-sized farms. The number of total farms plummeted to 769 in 1950, while the average size of the farms rose, to 141.2 acres and the number of large farms (500 to 1000 acres) also increased—to 28. This trend toward larger farms, where the total number of farms greater than 500 acres—29 in 1945 and 31 in 1950—far exceeds the pre-WWII totals, and marks a shift in at least one sector of farming in Oldham County, the rise of the Gentleman Farm.¹²

Year	Number of Farms	Average Farm Size	Farms 500-1000 acres	Farms 1000 acres+
1900	811	138	No Data	No Data
1910	873	No Data	No Data	No Data
1920	1086	No Data	No Data	No Data
1930	783	139	No Data	No Data
1935	922	116	15	4
1940	802	142.6	21	3
1945	915	132	24	5
1950	769	141.2	28	3

Throughout the first half of the twentieth century, the majority of farms in Oldham County remained in the hands of farmers who did not have extensive acreage, which might be defined as 500 or more acres. Gentleman farms in Oldham County, which emerged in the 19th century, increased by 1940 as the number of large-acreage properties increased in the census record. Industrialists from neighboring Jefferson County began to take an interest in available fertile agricultural land of Oldham County, just as many Oldham County farmers were abandoning their property to take off-farm jobs in the area.

⁷ U.S. Census of Agriculture 1900, 1910, and 1920.

⁸ The average size of farms increases by one acre in 1930. Comparing the 1900 average farm size to the 1930 farm size shows that there was not a dramatic change in the average over 30-year time span.

⁹ U.S. Census of Agriculture 1940

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ U.S. Census of Agriculture 1950

¹² Ibid.

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Ross-Hollenbach Farm
Oldham County, KY

Important Agricultural Products in Oldham County

Defining types of farms in Oldham County requires an understanding of the agricultural products. Oldham County farmers were the first producers of commercially grown orchard grass for seed production in the United States. Oldham County's Lilburne Magruder introduced orchard grass crops in the 1890s. By the early-twentieth century, Oldham County was the leading orchard grass seed producing county in the United States. During this time, approximately 80 percent of all orchard grass grown in the United States was grown within 40 miles of Goshen in Oldham County.¹³

During the first part of the twentieth century, dairy products became the leading farm commodities produced in the county. Nearby Louisville was a ready market for milk, butter, eggs and other dairy products. The rearing of beef cattle and hogs remained important throughout the twentieth century, while dairy farming declined in the last quarter of the century.¹⁴

Horses and mules had been present in Oldham County agriculture since its establishment. They were primarily used for work on farms or for transportation. As mechanized farm machinery and automobiles became more prevalent in the twentieth century, the need for equine stock waned.¹⁵

Rise of the Thoroughbred Farm in Oldham County

A burgeoning Thoroughbred industry emerged in Oldham County in the first half of the twentieth century.¹⁶ The corridor of farms along U.S. Highway 42 in the northwestern portion of the county was particularly suited to breeding and raising horses.¹⁷ The Crider-Nicholson soil in this region of the county provided nutrient-rich pasture land, ideal for raising horses. According to Whitaker, the natural environment provided the potential for this area to develop a thoroughbred horse landscape to rival that of the Inner Bluegrass area of Kentucky.¹⁸

The thoroughbred horse industry is concentrated in only seven counties in Kentucky: Fayette, Woodford, Bourbon, Scott, Clark, Jessamine and Oldham. Of these seven counties, Oldham is the only one located outside of Kentucky's Inner Bluegrass region.¹⁹ Oldham County also ranks in the top three percent nationwide for the number of horse farms in one county.²⁰ Farms in Oldham County breed not only Thoroughbred horses, but also arabian, saddlebred and quarter horses.²¹ The area near Skylight in Oldham County has the primary concentration of thoroughbred training and breeding farms.²²

¹³ Orville J. Whitaker, *Soil Survey of Oldham County, Kentucky*, p. 2

¹⁴ Jack Harrison, "Clifton" National Register Nomination, 1997

¹⁵ Lowell H Harrison, and James C. Klotter. "Bourbon Barons, Tobacco Tycoons, and King Coal," p. 297

¹⁶ "Growth Causing a Decline in Farming in the County," December 31, 1998

¹⁷ Orville J. Whitaker, *Soil Survey of Oldham County, Kentucky*, p. 4

¹⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁹ Kirsten Haukebo, "A New Leader on the Farm" p. 1

²⁰ Rebecca Yonker, "Patton Peruses Horse Park Proposal," p. 1

²¹ Thomas D. Clark, "Agriculture" p. 18-19

²² "Skylight Remains in Heart of Horse Country," p. 24

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Ross-Hollenbach Farm
Oldham County, KY

Oldham County Farm Types

Understanding the very complex nature of farming over time has led historians to classify farms into three very simplistic types: subsistence, middling, and gentleman farms. The “subsistence farm” is generally characterized as an agricultural landscape that provided products necessary to support the inhabitants of the property. Outbuildings on subsistence farms were few in number and very functional in form. Domestic buildings were also modest in scale, exhibiting few references to high style architecture current at the period of construction. Over time, as a county’s agricultural complexity develops, subsistence farms would diminish in number and importance in defining a county’s agricultural landscape. The many subsistence farms in any county probably exist today as vestigial fragments within larger farming enterprises, just as today parts of a settlement-era log house can be found underneath several episodes of later construction.

The “middling farm” is identified as a type of farm that generates income beyond the level of subsistence. The operator of this type of farm raised crops or livestock, such as cattle, hogs, and poultry, in amounts intended to generate profit. Middling farms could have substantial homes and large acreage, but exhibited an aesthetic relating to function more than to prestige, as they were working farms.²³

A “gentleman farm” is also a farm type whose owner intended to generate a profit, but was concerned with establishing a carefully planned and coherent appearance to the farm, with clear marks of a designer applied to the dwelling, fencing, roads and landscape.²⁴ Substantial houses constructed with stone or brick followed the fashionable architectural styles of the time. Drives or lanes meandering through the property connected the farm to major road systems. Park-like, manicured landscaping of the land not devoted to agricultural production was prevalent.²⁵ Siting of the main house was also important. Typically, the dwelling was found on higher ground, to take advantage of views of the farm and to appear as the central focus of an artistic composition.²⁶

The gentleman farm is also distinguished from the “country estate” property type, in that it was actively farmed. The country estate, while a designed residence and landscape, was essentially an urban house in a rural setting. The gentleman farm’s main purpose was to be an agricultural enterprise, even though there was an emphasis on a designed residence and farmscape.²⁷

Gentleman Farm Property Type

Throughout the nineteenth century, the concept of the agrarian ethic was espoused by national figures including Thomas Jefferson, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Daniel Webster, Henry David Thoreau, Andrew Jackson Downing and Alexander Jackson Davis. The American “gentleman farm” was born out of the philosophy that being closely tied to the land was a virtuous pursuit.²⁸ Modeled after the “English gentleman,” these farmers sought to create a refined image of themselves and their farms. This was especially important for some elites who sought to separate themselves from the image of urban luxury and excess, which social critics began to associate with moral degradation as early as the late-19th century.²⁹

²³ Janie-Rice Brother, “The Agricultural and Architectural Landscapes of Two Antebellum Montgomery County Farms” p. 10

²⁴ Janie-Rice Brother, “The Agricultural and Architectural Landscapes of Two Antebellum Montgomery County Farms” p. 7

²⁵ Karl Raitz and Carolyn Murray-Wooley. “The Gentleman Farm and the Landscape of Kentucky’s Bluegrass Region,”

²⁶ Karl Raitz and Carolyn Murray-Wooley. “The Gentleman Farm and the Landscape of Kentucky’s Bluegrass Region,” p. 20

²⁷ Daniel Carey, “Agriculture in Louisville and Jefferson County, the Gentleman Farm Property Type,” Louisville and Jefferson County, Kentucky, Multiple Property listing, 1989

²⁸ Donna Neary, “Waldeck Farm” National Register Nomination, 2000

²⁹ Karl Raitz and Carolyn Murray-Wooley. “The Gentleman Farm and the Landscape of Kentucky’s Bluegrass Region,” p. 1

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CONTINUATION SHEET
Section 8 Page 6

Ross-Hollenbach Farm
Oldham County, KY

The nineteenth-century gentleman farm rose to prominence just prior to the Civil War and continued until the start of the 20th century.³⁰ The characteristic gentleman farmer was a classically educated elite. These gentlemen were born into the position of wealth. The gentleman farmer of this period might have a profession outside of the farm, such as being a lawyer. They were, though, generally the manager of farm operations. Most importantly, they did not work in the actual day-to-day farm operations.³¹

Gentleman farms were large in acreage, ranging in hundreds to thousands of acres. Land holdings were usually comprised of the most fertile soils. As a result, this productive farmland was typically held in the family through generations.³² Gentleman farms of this period were often found to be within a reasonable commuting distance to the county seat or town.³³

Gentleman farmers were concerned with improvement and experimentation on the farm. They could afford to try new methods since they were not dependent on the profits of the farm. The gentleman farmer was driven to be an innovator by using improved farming methods and machinery. The hope was that he could provide better methods for not just himself, but the greater farming community.³⁴

Twentieth Century Gentleman Farms

Many features of a 19th-century gentleman farm were emulated in the 20th-century manifestation of the property type. These features, however, were translated into a new cultural, social and economic environment.

The time between the 1920s – 1940s marks a significant era of gentleman farm development in Oldham County.³⁵ During the 20th century, an increasing number of gentleman farm owners had acquired their wealth through business, i.e., in non-agricultural realms. These owners, though, did not bring the same drive from their work life to their home life; they seemed to treat their farms more as a hobby, or at least a retreat from the demands of the business world.³⁶ This gentleman farmer seemed less intent on identifying with the rural values articulated by his 19th-century counterpart. Instead, he regarded the farm more as a source of social image and prestige than as a site to achieve agricultural ideals. Yet, in achieving this social impact, gentleman farmers of the 1920-1940s consciously drew upon familiar features found on 19th-century gentleman farms, using the iconic power that landscape elements had acquired on those earlier gentleman farms.³⁷

³⁰ Daniel Carey, "Agriculture in Louisville and Jefferson County, the Gentleman Farm Property Type," Louisville and Jefferson County, Kentucky, Multiple Property listing, 1989

³¹ Karl Raitz and Carolyn Murray-Wooley. "The Gentleman Farm and the Landscape of Kentucky's Bluegrass Region," p. 8

³² Karl Raitz and Carolyn Murray-Wooley. "The Gentleman Farm and the Landscape of Kentucky's Bluegrass Region," p. 3

³³ Karl Raitz and Carolyn Murray-Wooley. "The Gentleman Farm and the Landscape of Kentucky's Bluegrass Region," p. 30

³⁴ Karl Raitz and Carolyn Murray-Wooley. "The Gentleman Farm and the Landscape of Kentucky's Bluegrass Region," p. 19

³⁵ Dr. Karl Raitz, "Gentleman Farmers"

³⁶ R. Gerald Alvey, "The Bluegrass Gentleman Farm and Other Rural Folk Patterns," p. 95

³⁷ R. Gerald Alvey, "The Bluegrass Gentleman Farm and Other Rural Folk Patterns," p. 95

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Ross-Hollenbach Farm
Oldham County, KY

Trade journals published during the early decades of the twentieth century suggested proper elements for the gentleman farm. Expensive, purebred livestock advertisements filled the classified sections of *The Country Gentleman*, *Progressive Farmer*, and *Country Life*. Jersey and Guernsey cattle, Thoroughbreds, Standardbreds and even purebred dogs were prominently featured in these trade journals. The importance of display and image in a gentleman farm was also emphasized. Many articles dealt with topics ranging from “entertaining city friends,” garden improvement suggestions, and “home essentials.” Farms featured in the journals boasted of impressive views, well-built residences, model horse and cattle barns, and substantial acreage.

Gentleman farmers gained prestige through the creation of a successful enterprise, so the emphasis on farming had not completely disappeared. The 20th-century gentleman farmers were interested in developing their property as a model farm to allow for crop experimentation, introducing new farming methods and breeding fine bloodstock. The capital available to gentleman farmers allowed them to employ new agricultural technologies and machinery. If successful, both the farm’s productivity and prestige were bolstered, and proven agricultural methods were often adopted by the larger agricultural community.³⁸

The gentleman farmer of this period resided on the property, even though he might be involved in a business or profession away from the farm. Typically, the main dwelling was a large revival style structure. Other dwellings for farm managers and laborers could be located on the property but were modest in scale. Formal entry gates were also associated with gentleman farms of the period.³⁹ Sometimes plaques or signs were also located at the entry to announce the identity of the farm.⁴⁰

Most gentleman farms of this period placed great importance on raising purebred livestock.⁴¹ Many gentleman farmers had specialized barns for their bloodstock. These buildings were purpose-designed for the animal’s function, as well as aesthetically-designed for the owner’s social prestige. Barns were often large and over-scaled, with decorative elements such as Dutch doors, Palladian window treatments, or roof dormers. The post-and-plank fencing became the iconic indicator of this farm type and was almost universally chosen by the gentleman farmer of this period.⁴²

Much like 19th-century gentleman farms, owners could afford to create an idealized farmscape, with aesthetic qualities being paramount. Since their livelihood was not dependent on success of the farm, they could conspicuously consume—not just manufactured items, but the very land itself.⁴³ Gentleman farmers employed the landscape to display their ability to utilize the land for non-agricultural uses. Generous use of the land was made for the domestic dwelling and yard. Meandering drives, large fence setbacks and ornamental gardens are elements on a 20th-century gentleman farm that underscore the liberal use of the land.⁴⁴

³⁸ R. Gerald Alvey, “The Bluegrass Gentleman Farm and Other Rural Folk Patterns,” p. 95

³⁹ Dr. Karl Raitz, “Gentleman Farmers”

⁴⁰ R. Gerald Alvey, “The Bluegrass Gentleman Farm and Other Rural Folk Patterns,” p. 97

⁴¹ R. Gerald Alvey, “The Bluegrass Gentleman Farm and Other Rural Folk Patterns,” p. 96

⁴² Dr. Karl Raitz, “Gentleman Farmers”

⁴³ Dr. Karl Raitz, “Gentleman Farmers”

⁴⁴ R. Gerald Alvey, “The Bluegrass Gentleman Farm and Other Rural Folk Patterns,” p. 97

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Section 8 Page 8

Ross-Hollenbach Farm
Oldham County, KY

While similarities existed between 19th- and 20th-century gentleman farmers, there are some key differences. Unlike 19th-century gentleman farmer who was part of the landed gentry, 20th-century gentleman farmers were often self-made industrialists. Having the capital to invest in agricultural land, gentleman farmers of the twentieth century were focused on creating an agricultural manifestation of their business success. Often taking a more industrial approach, gentleman farmers of the twentieth century tended to specialize in a particular type of agricultural pursuit. Purebred stock, whether cattle or horses, were a favored agricultural specialization. The success of this type of gentleman farm was measured by promotion of the purebred stock rather than scientific innovation. The landscape of the twentieth century gentleman farmer showcased the product on the farm through the construction of specialized agricultural buildings, often on a grander scale than their middling farmer counterparts did on theirs.

Gentleman Farms in Oldham County

Oldham County's economy was interconnected with that of Jefferson County. Many Oldham farmers sent their agricultural products to Louisville and Jefferson County. During the 1850s, the Lexington and Ohio Railroad connected the County by rail to Lexington and Louisville. A line to Cincinnati was added in the late 1850s. An interurban rail line was added in the early 1900s, with departures to Louisville every half hour.⁴⁵ The benefit of reliable fast transportation to urban centers, such as Louisville, allowed for remote rural living for those whose work connected them to town.⁴⁶

With the development of Oldham County's roads, railroads and interurban trains, access was convenient for commuting to Louisville. This made Oldham County's rural setting attractive to Louisville's upper class for establishing Gentleman Farms. Sixteen stock farms were established in Oldham County by 1879.⁴⁷ National Register-listed Waldeck Farm (OL-227), Walnut Hill Farm (OL-278), A.F. Bottorff's Welcome Home (OL-289), Grandview (OL-295), Tyler Peacock House (OL-247), Sugar Grove Stock Farm (OL-201), Midway Stock Farm (OL-243) and Nock House (OL-340) have all been identified as examples of the Gentleman Farm property type in Oldham County from the nineteenth century.⁴⁸

More Louisville industrialists migrated to Oldham County in the first half of the twentieth century to establish gentleman farms. William Belknap of Belknap Hardware Co. purchased Land O' Goshen Farm (OL-286) in 1920s⁴⁹. Charles Bottorff, president of Belknap Hardware Co., acquired Annewood Farms near Goshen in 1940.⁵⁰ Lowry Watkins Sr. purchased Frog Jump Farm (OL-262) in Skylight in 1933 to raise thoroughbreds.⁵¹ Woodford Fitch Axton, owner of Axton-Fisher Tobacco Company in Louisville, purchased land for his gentleman farm, Wildwood (OL-487), in 1927, which was listed on the National Register in 2005.⁵² W.L Lyons Brown, president of Brown-Forman and Company, purchased the initial 466-acre-tract that would become Ashbourne Farms (OL-110, OL-145, OL-146, OL-148) in 1942.

⁴⁵ *Oldham County, Kentucky History and Families; The First Century, 1824-1929*. p. 59

⁴⁶ Donna Neary, "Waldeck Farm" National Register Nomination, 2000

⁴⁷ Beers and Lanagan. *Atlas of Jefferson and Oldham Counties, Kentucky*.

⁴⁸ Donna Neary, "Waldeck Farm" National Register Nomination, 2000

⁴⁹ *Oldham County, Kentucky History and Families; The First Century, 1824-1929*. p. 141

⁵⁰ *Kentucky's Historic Farms: 200 Years of Agriculture*. P. 298

⁵¹ *Oldham County, Kentucky History and Families; The First Century, 1824-1929*. p. 50

⁵² Oldham County Deed Book 49, p. 137.

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Ross-Hollenbach Farm
Oldham County, KY

These twentieth-century gentleman farms were established on property which had already been actively farmed. The new owners began remaking the landscape for their bloodstock operations. Sometimes acreage was added to provide more pastureland. Charles Bottorff purchased an additional 200 acres for Annewood Farm, making it 400 acres. In the case of Hermitage Farm, the existing property was already 850 acres, which was quite suitable for Thoroughbreds.⁵³

Some of new owners kept the historic dwellings intact. This was the case at Hermitage, Annewood and Frog Jump Farm, where the main dwelling dated to the pre-Civil War era. William Belknap added a two-story stone addition in 1925 to the original 1811 house.⁵⁴ Ashbourne Farms contains a mid-nineteenth century Gothic Revival house on the Main Division portion of the property that served as the principal dwelling for the enterprise.

Ross-Hollenbach Farm

The rural areas of Oldham County surrounding Brownsboro contained stock farms in the 19th century. The 1879 Atlas shows a total of ten stock farms in that vicinity. During the 20th century, the number of stock farms declined, as farmers in general turned to non-farm employment in Louisville and elsewhere. Phillip Hollenbach, who was a Louisville attorney, purchased property near Brownsboro during the 1940s, acquiring approximately 242 acres of the original Reuben Ross Farm, which included the historic stone house. Hollenbach transformed the property into a 20th-century gentleman farm, introducing thoroughbred horses to the Brownsboro area.

Once Hollenbach purchased the parcel, he began making modifications to the property to establish and support his vision of a gentleman farm. He primarily raised Thoroughbred horses and some Angus cattle. Three-plank board fencing defined pastures and paddocks. Horse barns and a tenant house were erected. Also, he hired architect Fred Morgan to expand the Reuben Ross house, adding two single-story stone wings to the original Federal-era stone house.⁵⁵ This wholesale and coordinated remaking of the property turned the historic Ross homestead into a 20th-century gentleman farm.

Hollenbach, however, never did establish a successful stock farm and eventually had to sell his farm and equipment at auction in 1961. Adjacent properties to the Hollenbach Farm, also part of the historic Ross Farm, continued in agricultural operation. The Nanz dairy farm lay to the west of the Ross-Hollenbach Farm. The McWilliams family operated a livestock farm and grew tobacco on a 217-acre parcel east of the Ross-Hollenbach Farm. The McWilliams family sold 100 acres of that farm to the Sleepy Hollow Country Club, and retained the remaining 117 acres as farmland until the early 1980s.

Edward and Cornelia Bonnie purchased the first parcel of the historic Reuben Ross Farm in 1961 from the Hollenbachs.⁵⁶ Shortly after that purchase, the Bonnies acquired the former Sarah Ross parcel, which had become the 160-acre Nanz dairy farm. The last parcel obtained by the Bonnies is the former McWilliams farm, the 117-acre parcel, which they purchased in 1981. The Bonnies named the three assembled tracts, which includes the nominated property as the middle farm, as Stonelea Farm. The Bonnies continue farming operations, which includes raising Thoroughbred horses. The historic resources on the farm are also being maintained and preserved.

⁵³ *Kentucky's Historic Farms: 200 Years of Agriculture*. P. 298 -299

⁵⁴ Kentucky Heritage Council Survey forms.

⁵⁵ During the late-nineteenth century, a two-story ell addition had been constructed for the Reuben Ross house.

⁵⁶ Oldham County Deedbook 91 page 392.

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Section 8 Page 10

Ross-Hollenbach Farm
Oldham County, KY

Evaluation of Historic Significance of Ross-Hollenbach Farm

The historic Ross-Hollenbach Farm is as an excellent example of Oldham County agricultural history as it represents the gentleman farm activities of the twentieth century. By representing the principal agricultural products that characterized Oldham County's economy during this period of the twentieth century, the Ross-Hollenbach Farm is a significant property. Though the farm operation was modest in scale, the Ross-Hollenbach farm established Thoroughbred operations into a part of the county which was not traditionally associated with the farming type. The extant historic resources demonstrate the characteristics of a gentleman farm from the early- and mid-20th century.

Integrity Considerations for Gentleman Farms in Oldham County

To be considered eligible for the National Register of Historic Places a Gentleman Farm should possess integrity of location, setting, design, feeling and association. A property that maintains these integrity factors will successfully convey its identity and significance as a gentleman farm.

A gentleman farm will be said to have a high level of integrity in **location** if the farm complex retains its historic placement on the land. The major buildings including dwellings and agricultural structures associated with the property should remain in their original locations. Though it cannot be expected that the entire acreage from the period of significance of the farm be intact due to modern land use patterns, a gentleman farm will be said to have a high level of integrity of **setting** if the farm maintains a rural character associated with the original farmscape. The gentleman farm must maintain a sense of a cultivated landscape. A gentleman farm must retain a minimum amount of landscape to convey the existence of a previously successful farming operation. These elements include a well-maintained domestic building, barn, pasture, fencing, entry driveway and thoughtfully placed trees and shrubs.

A gentleman farm will be said to have a high level of integrity of **design** if it retains a significant collection of buildings and structures related to the farmscape from the period of significance. It is not expected that all related historic resources will remain, due to modern encroachments and land divisions. Representations of domestic and agricultural complexes relating to the gentleman farm must be present. Changes or additions to the domestic complex do not compromise eligibility if they are done in concert with the main block's scale, massing and high quality architectural design.

A gentleman farm will be said to have a high level of integrity of **feeling** and **association** if the remaining land conveys a sense of a successful farming operation. An intangible element that runs true throughout the gentleman farm is that the farms survive for generations. If there has been little alteration to the landscape and building relationships on a gentleman farm, then that farm will have a high integrity of feeling. On the perimeter, there should be enough of remaining farmland to convey the sense of the original farm use. While the gentleman farm does not need to be an actively operating farm, evidence of such a former function must be present for the property to convey a high level of integrity of association.

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Section 8 Page 11

Ross-Hollenbach Farm
Oldham County, KY

Integrity Evaluation of the Ross-Hollenbach Farm

The high level of integrity exhibited at the Ross-Hollenbach Farm helps to define and underscore the significance of the Gentleman Farm Property Type in Oldham County. Oldham County's agricultural products became clearly defined during the twentieth century. Raising Thoroughbred horses became important agricultural products in the county during this time period. The historic significance of the Ross-Hollenbach Farm in Oldham County as a gentleman farm is conveyed through its high level of integrity in location, design, setting, feeling and association.

The Ross-Hollenbach Farm conveys a high level of integrity of **location** and **setting**. The farm is located on South Highway 1694, which is a principal route from Louisville to Brownsboro. Most of the buildings have not been moved from their original locations and retain their original spatial relationships. A log house was moved, but this dwelling is not within the period of significance. The setting is intact, as the complete 242-acre Ross-Hollenbach tract remains. The rolling landscape and fertile Crider-Nicholson soils that the farm is situated on have been retained throughout the years. The domestic and agricultural buildings, as well as landscape features (fences, ponds, pastures, fields) associated with the Ross-Hollenbach Farm, are evident. The setting conveys a strong sense of 20th-century gentleman farming activities in Oldham County.

Ross-Hollenbach Farm retains a high level of **design** and **material** integrity. The houses, outbuildings and barns have undergone little alteration since construction and are in good-to-excellent condition. The Reuben Ross house was enlarged in 1947 with the addition of one-story wings. This alteration reflects the twentieth-century period of ownership by the Hollenbach family and underscores the period of significance. The original massing, scale and architectural design of the main house has not been diminished with these wing additions. A rear addition was also erected, but does not impact the integrity of the historic portions of the house. The other domestic buildings, as well as, the barns and outbuildings, all retain high levels of design and materials integrity as well. Little alteration has occurred to these features, which convey the sense of the landscape during the Period of Significance.

The Ross-Hollenbach Farm conveys a high level of integrity of **feeling** and **association**. The rural setting, rural viewsheds, domestic and agricultural resources remain intact to convey the feeling and association of a Gentleman Farm Property type. The Ross-Hollenbach Farm is well maintained property and is in excellent condition. Very little alteration to the original farmscape helps to convey a strong sense of how the original farm appeared during the Period of Significance.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEETSection 9 Page 1Ross-Hollenbach Farm
Oldham County, KY

- =====
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10. Geographical DataAcreage of Property 242 acres

UTM References

Coordinate	Zone	Easting	Northing	Anchorage Quad
1	16	627 620	4246 477	
2	16	628 452	4245 727	
3	16	628 021	4245 219	
4	16	627 496	4245 290	
5	16	627 095	4246 103	

Verbal Boundary Description (See continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification (See continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Cynthia Johnson
organization N/A date March 1, 2008
street & number 2533 Broadmeade Rd. #2 telephone (859) 338-8284
city or town Louisville state KY zip code 40205

12. Property Owner

name Edward and Cornelia Bonnie
street & number 4701 S. Highway 1694 telephone (502) 241-4647
city or town Prospect state KY zip code 40059

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 10 Page 1

Ross-Hollenbach Farm
Oldham County, KY

Verbal Boundary Description

The property as listed in the Deed of record in Deed Book 91 Page 392 in the Office of the Clerk of Oldham County, Kentucky. Please see attached map number Map #2.

Verbal Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes parcels historically associated with the Ross Farm and is occupied by the principal structures that define the farm. This acreage contains the main dwelling, other associated farm dwellings, agricultural outbuildings, pastures, cropland and elements of a gentleman farm landscape to successfully convey property's historic use. The nominated property maintains the integrity of setting, location, feeling and association and is appropriate for the nomination.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 10 Page 2

Ross-Hollenbach Farm
Oldham County,

KY

Additional Documentation

Maps:

- Map 1 USGS topographic map showing location of property.
- Map 2 PVA Survey map showing property boundaries.
- Map 3 Site Map identifying locations of resources. Numbers correspond to the resource inventory in the description.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Section Misc. Page 1

Ross-Hollenbach Farm
Oldham County, KY

Photo Key

All photographs represent the building, agricultural landscape features and surrounding geographical context of Ross Farm. The property is located at 4701 S. Highway 1694 in the vicinity of Brownsboro, Kentucky. All photographs were taken by Cynthia Johnson on January 27, 2008 and the negatives remain in her possession.

1. View looking south from the main entrance off of Highway 1694.
2. Looking south at the north façade of the Ross-Hollenbach house. The east and west wings were added by architect Fred Morgan to compliment the historic Ross house.
3. View looking southwest at the north façade of the Ross-Hollenbach house.
4. Looking north at the south and east elevations of the Ross-Hollenbach house. The two-story ell addition was added after the period of significance replacing a Victorian-era ell addition.
5. View looking east at the west elevation of the Ross-Hollenbach house featuring the Fred Morgan designed one-story wing. A later rear addition is in the background.
6. Looking southeast at the north façade of the Ross-Hollenbach house.
7. Looking east at the non-contributing log house that is located east of the Ross-Hollenbach house. This log building was relocated to a new site after the period of significance.
8. View looking northeast at the south and west elevations of the contributing garage built for Hollenbach circa 1947.
9. Looking south at the equipment barn showing the open bays on the west and north elevations.
10. View looking southwest behind the Ross-Hollenbach house showing the non-contributing pool and the contributing equipment barn's east elevation in the back ground.
11. Looking southeast at Horsebarn #1 showing the north and east elevations. A later shed addition extends from the east elevation to accommodate farm vehicles.
12. View looking southeast at Horsebarn #2 which is located directly east from Horsebarn #1.
13. Looking east at the west elevation of the contributing tenant house constructed for the horse farm manager.
14. Looking northeast at the south façade of the non-contributing 1960s tenant house and attached garage.
15. View looking east at the farm complex with the Ross-Hollenbach house in the background.
16. Looking south at the pasture behind the Ross-Hollenbach house with the equipment shed on the left side of the photo.
17. View looking southeast toward the Ross cemetery and the pond from the rear yard of the Ross-Hollenbach house.
18. Looking north at the pasture land on the Ross-Hollenbach farm. Three-board plank fencing is utilized on the farm to separate paddocks and pasture areas.
19. View looking south toward the Ross-Hollenbach farmstead with a horse pasture in the foreground. The main farm road is in the right hand portion of the picture.

Map #3
Pross-Hollenbach Farm
Site Plan of Resources
Not to Scale

Legend

1. Pross-Hollenbach House
2. Hollenbach Tenant House
3. Garage
4. Log House
5. 1960's Tenant House
6. Pool
7. Horsebarn # 1
8. Horsebarn # 2
9. Equipment Shed
10. Pross Cemetery

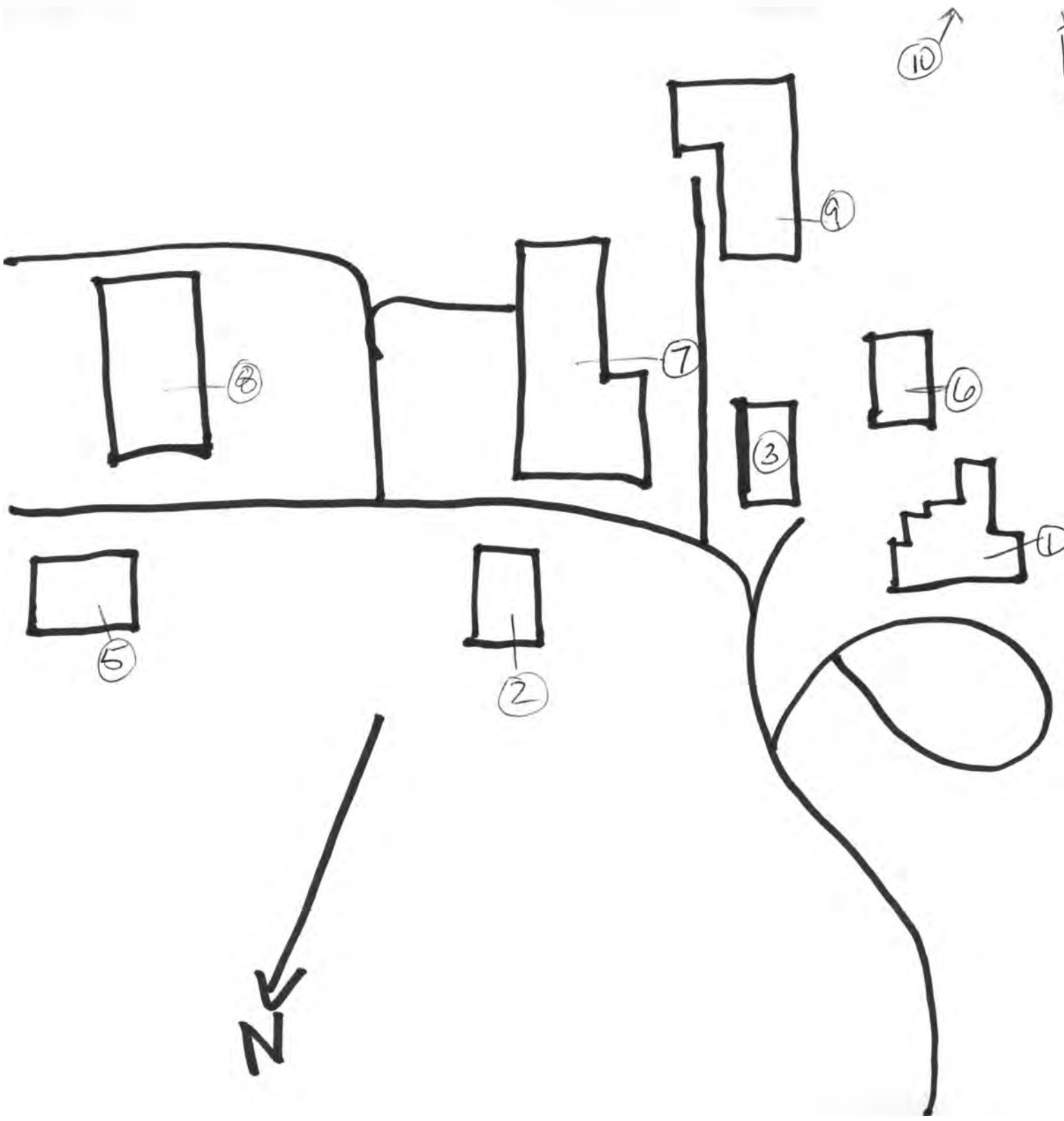
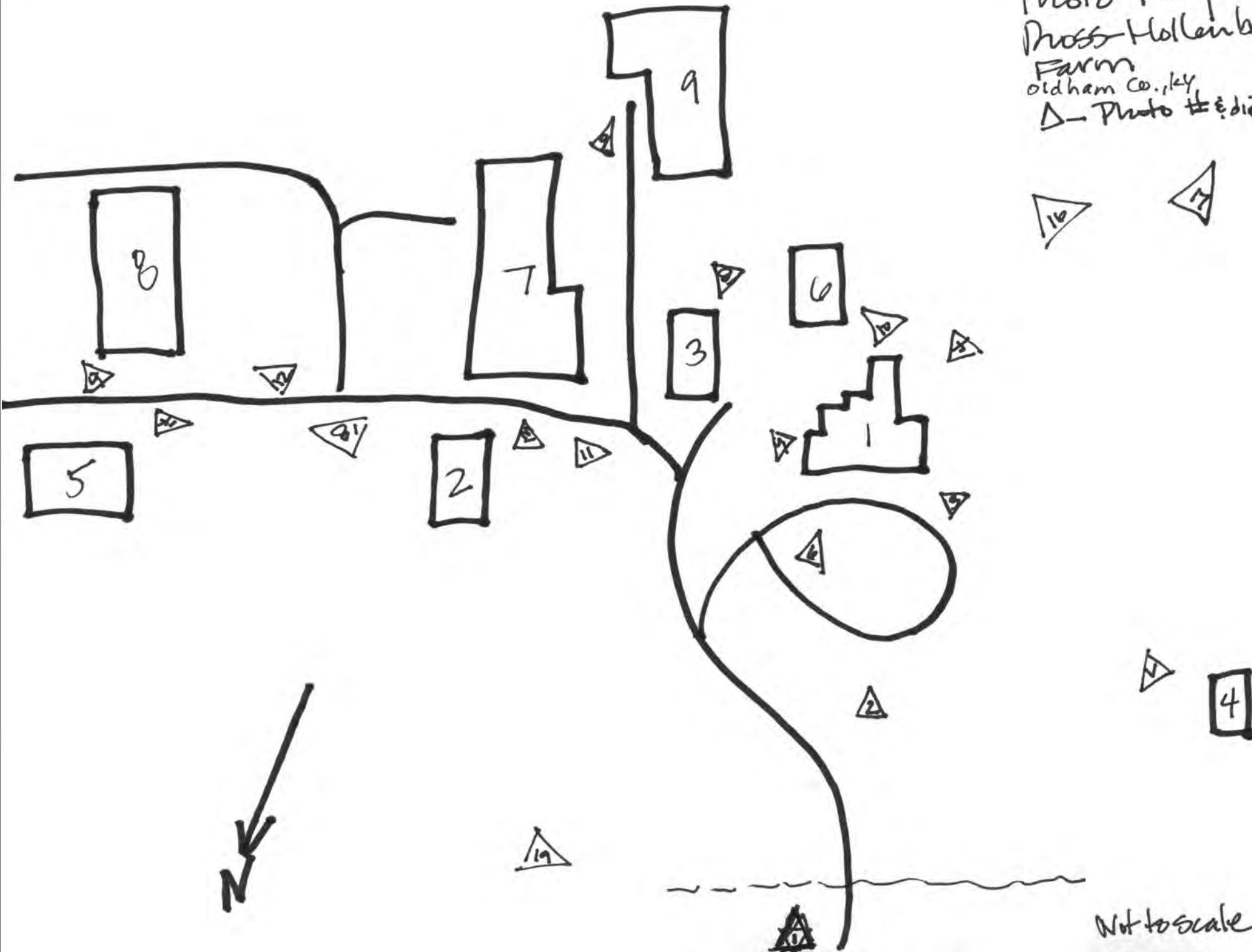


Photo Key
Pross-Hollenbach
Farm
Oldham Co., Ky.
△ - Photo # & direction



Not to scale

Map #2
Dross Hollenbach Farm
Oldham Co. KY

— = proposed boundary

Area enlarged on Map 1



PLANIMETRIC MAPPING FOR
EDWARD S. BONNIE
BROWNSBORO, KENTUCKY

BY

HARRISON
LAND SURVEYING, INC.
306 W. JEFFERSON ST. - LA GRANGE, KY. 40031
(502) 222 - 7487

OCTOBER 21, 2005

SCALE: 1" = 600'

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Ross-Hollenbach Farm

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: KENTUCKY, Oldham

DATE RECEIVED: 5/28/08 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 6/16/08
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 7/01/08 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 7/11/08
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 08000651

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: Y PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 7/8/08 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

This farm represents a new wave of agriculture/husbandry in the Bluegrass Region of Kentucky. A "Gentleman's Farm," it was converted from a historic mixed use farm in 1947 to a Thoroughbred horse farm in 1947. The historic house was remodeled and expanded to become a "country home" for the new owner/manager. The farm was at the forefront of this new trend of farm conversion in horse country.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept Crit A

COMMENT WAIVER:

REVIEWER J. Golobur DISCIPLINE Historic

TELEPHONE _____ DATE 7/8/08

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.





























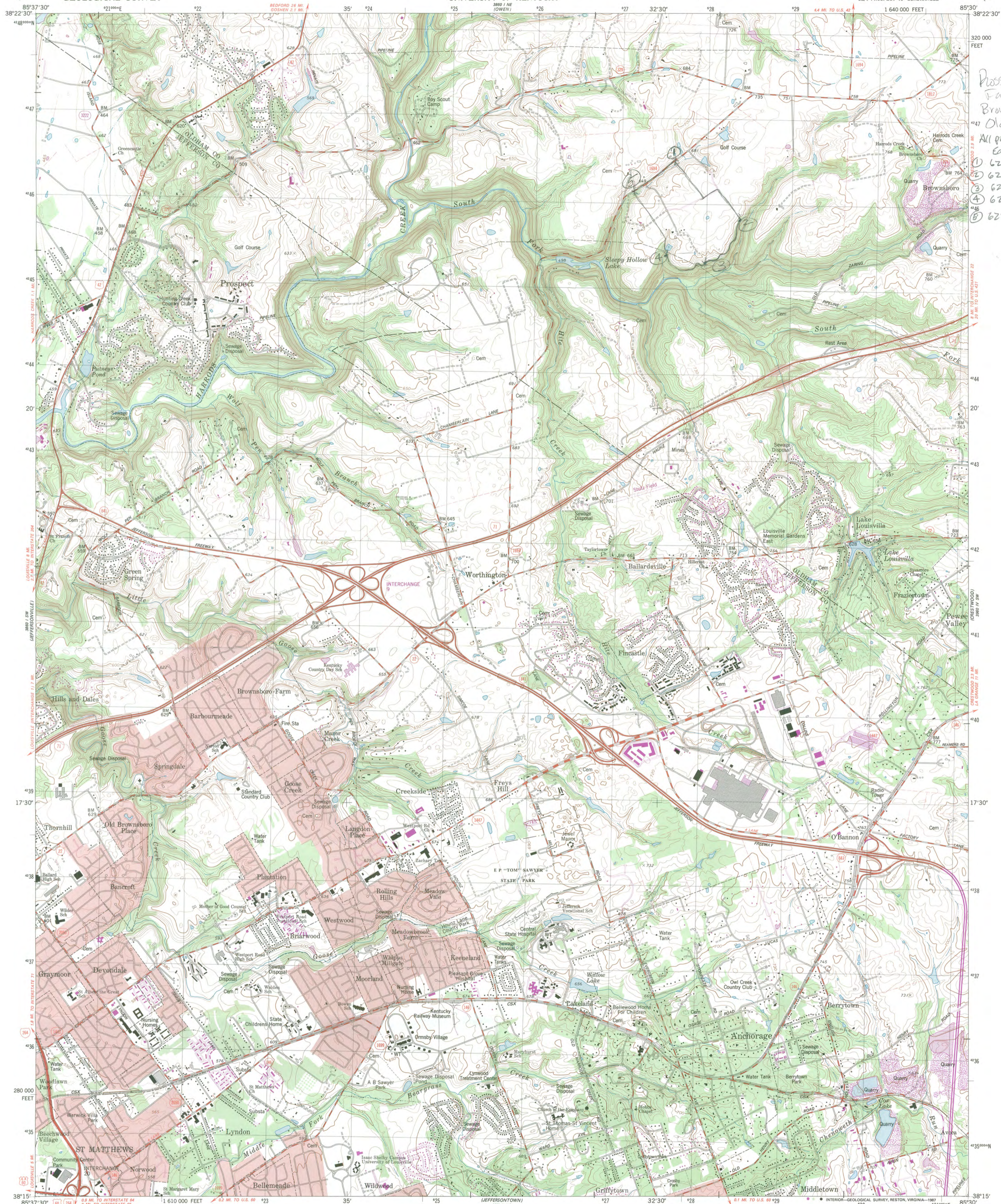












Press Hollenbach
Farm 01-232
Brownsboro Vicinity
Oldham Co, KY
All points zone 16
Easting Northing
① 627 620/4246 477
② 628 452/4245 722
③ 628 021/4245 219
④ 627 416/4245 200
⑤ 627 095/4246 103

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1949. Field checked 1950. Revised from aerial photographs taken 1978. Field checked 1979. Map edited 1981

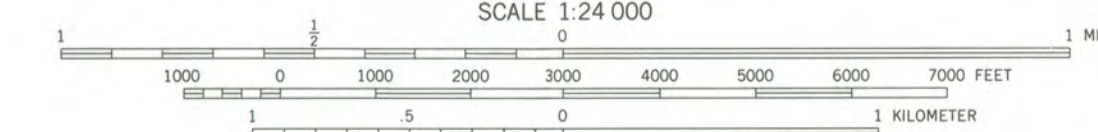
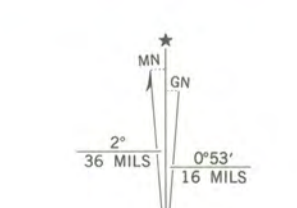
Polyconic projection. 10,000-foot grid ticks based on Kentucky coordinate system, north zone. 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid zone 16. 1927 North American Datum

To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983 move the projection lines 3 meters south and 3 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DOTTED LINES REPRESENT 5-FOOT CONTOURS
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225 OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092,
KENTUCKY GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY 40506,
AND KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40601
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled in cooperation with State of Kentucky agencies from aerial photographs taken 1984 and other sources. Contours not revised. This information not field checked
Map edited 1987

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road
Interstate Route	U. S. Route
	State Route

ANCHORAGE, KY.
SE/4 PROSPECT 15' QUADRANGLE
38085-C5-TF-024
1981
PHOTOREVISED 1987
DMA 3800 1 SE-SERIES 9853



COMMERCE CABINET
KENTUCKY HERITAGE COUNCIL

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Marcheta Sparrow
Secretary

Donna M. Neary
Executive Director and
State Historic Preservation Officer

May 22, 2008

Jan Snyder Matthews, Ph.D., Keeper
National Park Service 2280
National Register of Historic Places
1201 "I" (Eye) Street, NW 8th Floor
Washington DC 20005

Dear Dr. Matthews:

Enclosed are nominations approved at the May 15, 2008 Review Board meeting. We are submitting these Kentucky properties for listing in the National Register:

- Woodford-Fishback-Venable Farm, Clark County
- Hollywood Terrace Historic District, Fayette County
- Dr. Edwards House, Garrard County
- Mary Alice Hadley House, Jefferson County
- Progress School, Jefferson County
- Xhea Stadium, Logan County
- ✓ Ross-Hollenbach Farm, Oldham County

The following nominations were returned, and have been revised according to comments provided by the National Register staff reviewer. We are resubmitting these Kentucky properties for reconsideration and listing:

- Fort Thomas Commercial District (Campbell County)
- South Park Neighborhood (Clark County)
- Jesse Whitesell Farm (Name Change, Boundary Increase) (Fulton County KY and Obion County TN)
- Feltman Mound (Kenton County)

We appreciate your consideration of these nominations.

Sincerely,

Donna M. Neary
Donna M. Neary, Executive Director
Kentucky Heritage Council and
State Historic Preservation Officer