

KENTUCKY HISTORIC RESOURCES
Individual Inventory Form

Resource # BN-312
Barren County

1. Name of Resource:
Belle's Tavern

2. Original Owner:
William Belle

3. Other Names:

4. Prehistoric Site _____ Building Object
Historic Site _____ Structure _____ Other _____

5. Location:
Kentucky 255 at Park City

6. Owner's Name:
Gardner Heirs [P]

7. Owner's Address:
c/o Joe Perkins, Park City State Bank,
Park City, Kentucky 42160

8. Evaluation: [G]

9. Recognition & Date:
Nat.Landmark _____ Local Landmark
Nat.Register _____ HABS/HAER _____
Highway Marker KY Inventory
KY Landmark Certificate _____

10. N.R.Status & Date:

11. N.R.Group:
District Name: []
Mult.Resource Area: []
Thematic Name: Early Stone Buildings []

12. Historical Theme:
Primary: Architecture [030]
Secondary: Stage Stop [300]
Other: Tourism [300]

13. Statement of Significance:
Very late construction date for solid dry-stone masonry, not used elsewhere in Kentucky for Italianate buildings; workmanship precise and detailed. Good illustration of construction method, and style changes in tooling.
(Continued) []

14. History:
The tavern began operation sometime during the late 1820s and was originally known as Three Forks. By 1822, William Belle owned and operated the tavern as a stagecoach stop on the Louisville to Nashville route and was also one of the first promoters of the Mammoth Cave area as a tourist attraction. By the 1840s the tavern was a great attraction and its reputation was known in America and Europe. Among celebrities who were reputed to have been guests at the tavern were Henry Clay, Thomas Marshall,
(Continued)

15. Source of historical information and/or contact person:
1979 Nomination Form

16. Date:
Original Building 1880-90 [5]
Addition []

17. Style:
Italianate [42]
[]

18. Architect/Builder:
Now Known

19. No. of Stories: Incomplete [?]

20. Original Floor Plan:
[NA]

21. Single Pile _____ Double Pile _____ N.A.

22. Roof Form & Material: Original _____
Not Known _____ Not Original _____

23. Structural Material:
Stone [S]

24. Exterior Material: Stone [S]
[]

25. Foundation Material:
Stone [S]

26. Major Alterations: None
Moved/Rebuilt _____ Other _____
Additions _____

27. Special Features:
Excellent Masonry

28. Outbuildings:
None [0]

29. Original Function:
Intended Inn [01D]

30. Present Use:
Abandoned [99V]

31. Condition:
Good [G]

32. Endangered: Yes
by industrial expansion No _____

33. Attach Photos:
Roll: _____ Photo Nos: _____ No. of Slides: _____

34. Prepared by: Carolyn Murray-Wooley

35. Organization: Kentucky Heritage Council

36. Date: December 1983

37. New Survey _____ Resurvey

KENTUCKY HISTORIC RESOURCES
Individual Inventory Form

Resource # BN-312

38. UTM Point of Primary Building:	Zone	Easting	Northing	39. G.I.S. Mod.	[]
Quadrant: <u>Park City</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>584460</u>	<u>4105250</u>	40. Coordi.Accuracy	[]

41. UTM Points of Boundary (for N. R. eligible sites only):

A.	---	-----	-----	D.	---	-----	-----
B.	---	-----	-----	E.	---	-----	-----
C.	---	-----	-----	F.	---	-----	-----

42. Total Acreage in Present Property: _____ 43. Acreage included in proposed N.R. boundary: 6 1/3 acres

44. Site Plan (and boundary description and justification for N.R. sites):

45. Description and House Plan:

Partially constructed, dry-stone, center pavillion-plan tavern/inn. Stonework is coursed in rows of unequal height which abutt quoins at all openings and corners. A smooth watertable incircles both ends and the front at the first floor level. Windows are spanned by five equally sized, carefully shaped voussoirs braced by skewbacks and are segmentally arched. The voussoirs, quoins (photo 2), and watertable stones are golden-colored sandstone or dolomite and the remainder of the masonry is grey limestone. The exterior of the stones are carefully tooled into square shapes; the insides of the exterior walls and the interior walls are rough-cut stone, irregularly coursed (photo 3).

Never completed, the building seems to be in the Italianate style; the plan has a non-symmetrical room layout, an elaboration of a projecting central passage plan, with an almost symmetrical facade. There is no wood in the structure, but there are spaces in the masonry for the insertion of floor joists (photo 3). The building has a high basement, divided into rooms; the openings here are spanned by stone lintels (photo 1).

Although giving the appearance of a ruin, the building is probably in much the same state as when abandoned. Piles of rock are about and some unplaced tooled stones are on the site. Much of the work is covered with vines, and trees have grown up from the basement floor; surrounding land is wooded.

Stone is fossiliferous limestone. Ordovician system.

NOV 26 1986

Resource # BN-312
Barren County
Page 3 of 5 Pages

13. Statement of Significance: (Continued)

Evidence of Mammoth Cave as a National attraction.

14. History: (Continued)

Jenny Lind, and King Edward VII of England, when he was Prince of Wales.

The original brick tavern burned in the late 1850s, after Belle's death, and construction on the stone inn was begun by his grandson, William F. Belle and Major George Proctor, who married Belle's widow. Stone was quarried about three - four miles from Park City. Construction was terminated by the severe depression under President Grover Cleveland in the 1890s and the building was never completed.

KENTUCKY HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY SUPPLEMENT
BOUNDARY AND LOCATION INFORMATION

Historic Property Name Belle's Tavern Site # Bn 312
Multiple Resource/Thematic Nomination Title _____

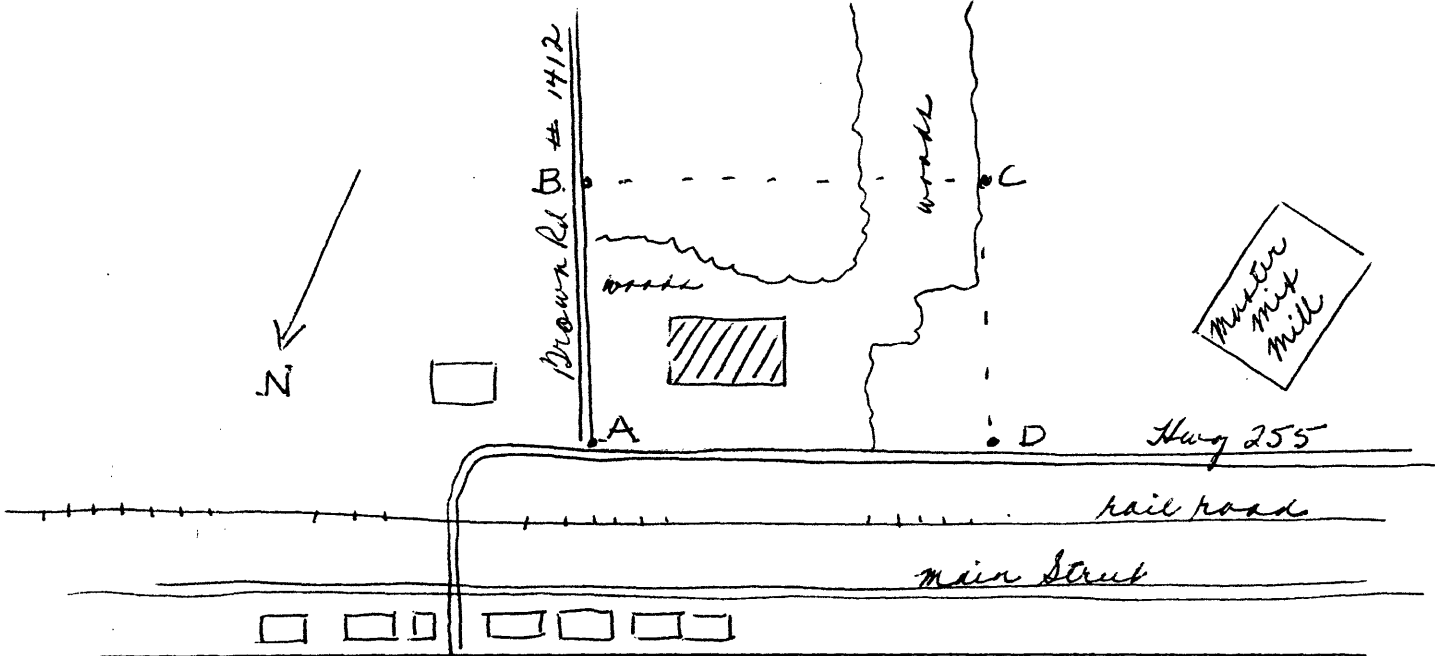
U.T.M. Coordinates - List multiple UTMs if property is ten or more acres.

A. 16 584460 4105250 D. _____
B. _____ E. _____
C. _____ F. _____

Verbal Boundary Description Acreage 6 1/3 acres

Beginning at A, at the intersection of Brown Road and Hwy 255, thence with Brown Road 525 feet to B, thence parallel to Hwy 255 W 525 ft to C, thence parallel to A-B 525 ft N. to D, thence with Hwy 255 E 525 ft to the beginning. Outside this boundary, there is farm land to the south, and industry to the west.

Sketch of Site Plan (Showing outbuildings, structures, landscape features and the site boundary as described above.)



Official Courthouse Property Reference:

Barren County Courthouse

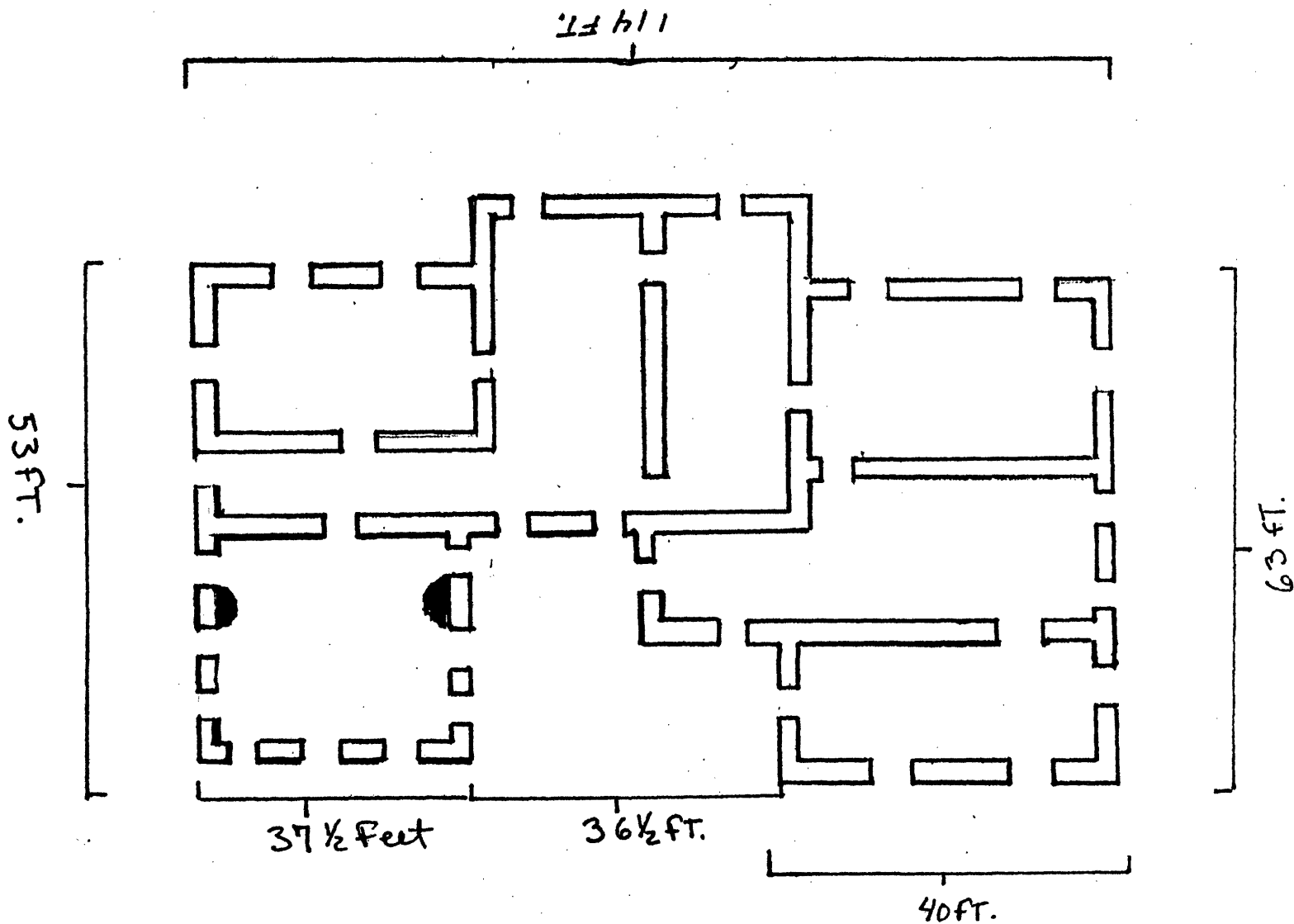
BN-
P. 5 of

NOV 26 1906

N

JUN 6 1906

BELLE'S TAVERN (BN-312)
(Early Stone Bldgs. of KY TR)



Belle's Tavern

KENTUCKY HISTORIC RESOURCES
Individual Inventory Form

Resource # BN-312
Barren County

1. Name of Resource:
Belle's Tavern

2. Original Owner:
William Belle

3. Other Names:

4. Prehistoric Site _____ Building Object
Historic Site _____ Structure _____ Other _____

5. Location:
Kentucky 255 at Park City

6. Owner's Name:
Gardner Heirs [P]

7. Owner's Address:
c/o Joe Perkins, Park City State Bank,
Park City, Kentucky 42160

8. Evaluation: [G]

9. Recognition & Date:
Nat.Landmark _____ Local Landmark
Nat.Register _____ HABS/HAER _____
Highway Marker KY Inventory
KY Landmark Certificate _____

10. N.R.Status & Date:

11. N.R.Group:
District Name: []
Mult.Resource Area: []
Thematic Name: Early Stone Buildings []

12. Historical Theme:
Primary: Architecture [030]
Secondary: Stage Stop [300]
Other: Tourism [300]

13. Statement of Significance:
Very late construction date for solid dry-stone masonry, not used elsewhere in Kentucky for Italianate buildings; workmanship precise and detailed. Good illustration of construction method, and style changes in tooling.
(Continued) []

14. History:
The tavern began operation sometime during the late 1820s and was originally known as Three Forks. By 1822, William Belle owned and operated the tavern as a stagecoach stop on the Louisville to Nashville route and was also one of the first promoters of the Mammoth Cave area as a tourist attraction. By the 1840s the tavern was a great attraction and its reputation was known in America and Europe. Among celebrities who were reputed to have been guests at the tavern were Henry Clay, Thomas Marshall,
(Continued)

15. Source of historical information and/or contact person:
1979 Nomination Form

16. Date:
Original Building 1880-90 [5]
Addition []

17. Style:
Italianate [42]
[]

18. Architect/Builder:
Now Known

19. No. of Stories: Incomplete [?]

20. Original Floor Plan:
[NA]

21. Single Pile _____ Double Pile _____ N.A.

22. Roof Form & Material: Original _____
Not Known _____ Not Original _____

23. Structural Material:
Stone [S]

24. Exterior Material: Stone [S]
[]

25. Foundation Material:
Stone [S]

26. Major Alterations: None
Moved/Rebuilt _____ Other _____
Additions _____

27. Special Features:
Excellent Masonry

28. Outbuildings:
None [0]

29. Original Function:
Intended Inn [01D]

30. Present Use:
Abandoned [99V]

31. Condition:
Good [G]

32. Endangered: Yes
by industrial expansion No _____

33. Attach Photos:
Roll: _____ Photo Nos: _____ No. of Slides: _____

34. Prepared by: Carolyn Murray-Wooley

35. Organization: Kentucky Heritage Council

36. Date: December 1983

37. New Survey _____ Resurvey

KENTUCKY HISTORIC RESOURCES
Individual Inventory Form

Resource # BN-312

38. UTM Point of Primary Building:	Zone	Easting	Northing	39. G.I.S. Mod.	[]
Quadrant: <u>Park City</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>584460</u>	<u>4105250</u>	40. Coordi.Accuracy	[]

41. UTM Points of Boundary (for N. R. eligible sites only):

A.	---	-----	-----	D.	---	-----	-----
B.	---	-----	-----	E.	---	-----	-----
C.	---	-----	-----	F.	---	-----	-----

42. Total Acreage in Present Property: _____ 43. Acreage included in proposed N.R. boundary: 6 1/3 acres

44. Site Plan (and boundary description and justification for N.R. sites):

45. Description and House Plan:

Partially constructed, dry-stone, center pavillion-plan tavern/inn. Stonework is coursed in rows of unequal height which abutt quoins at all openings and corners. A smooth watertable incircles both ends and the front at the first floor level. Windows are spanned by five equally sized, carefully shaped voussoirs braced by skewbacks and are segmentally arched. The voussoirs, quoins (photo 2), and watertable stones are golden-colored sandstone or dolomite and the remainder of the masonry is grey limestone. The exterior of the stones are carefully tooled into square shapes; the insides of the exterior walls and the interior walls are rough-cut stone, irregularly coursed (photo 3).

Never completed, the building seems to be in the Italianate style; the plan has a non-symmetrical room layout, an elaboration of a projecting central passage plan, with an almost symmetrical facade. There is no wood in the structure, but there are spaces in the masonry for the insertion of floor joists (photo 3). The building has a high basement, divided into rooms; the openings here are spanned by stone lintels (photo 1).

Although giving the appearance of a ruin, the building is probably in much the same state as when abandoned. Piles of rock are about and some unplaced tooled stones are on the site. Much of the work is covered with vines, and trees have grown up from the basement floor; surrounding land is wooded.

Stone is fossiliferous limestone. Ordovician system.

NOV 26 1986

13. Statement of Significance: (Continued)

Evidence of Mammoth Cave as a National attraction.

14. History: (Continued)

Jenny Lind, and King Edward VII of England, when he was Prince of Wales.

The original brick tavern burned in the late 1850s, after Belle's death, and construction on the stone inn was begun by his grandson, William F. Belle and Major George Proctor, who married Belle's widow. Stone was quarried about three - four miles from Park City. Construction was terminated by the severe depression under President Grover Cleveland in the 1890s and the building was never completed.

KENTUCKY HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY SUPPLEMENT
BOUNDARY AND LOCATION INFORMATION

Historic Property Name Belle's Tavern Site # Bn 312
Multiple Resource/Thematic Nomination Title _____

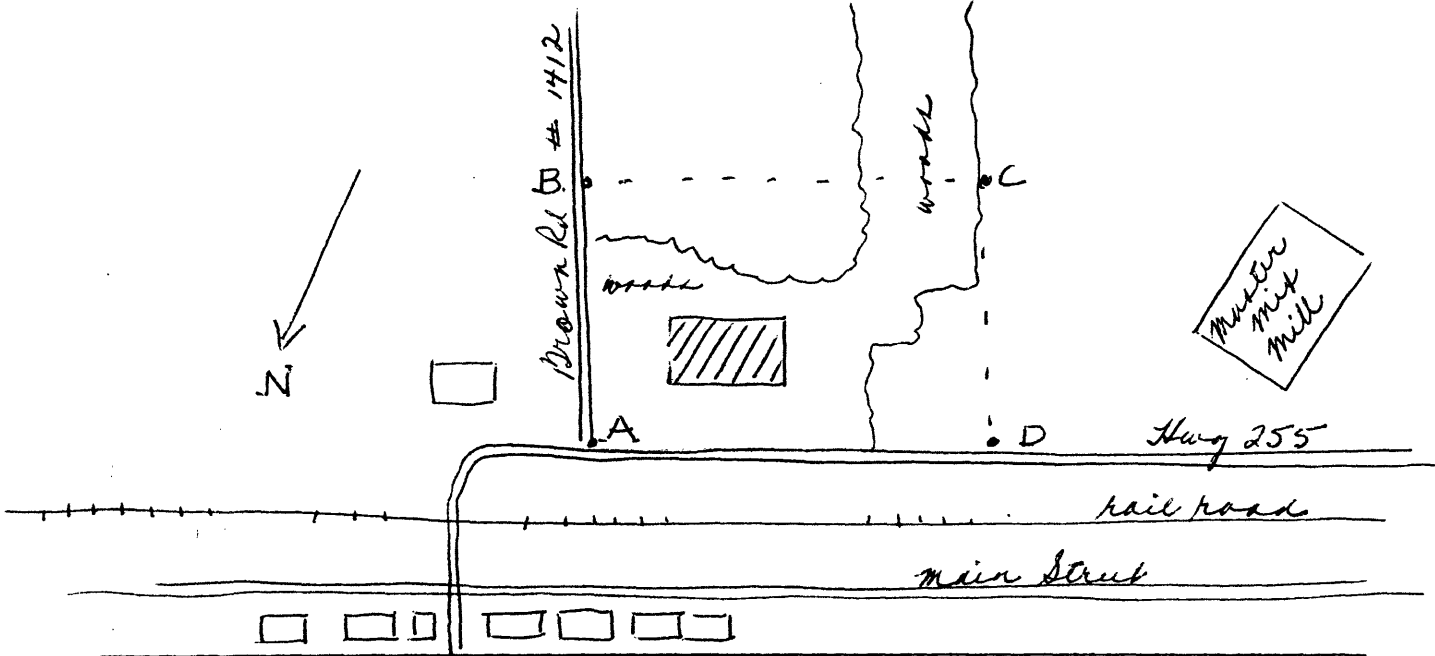
U.T.M. Coordinates - List multiple UTMs if property is ten or more acres.

A. 16 584460 4105250 D. _____
B. _____ E. _____
C. _____ F. _____

Verbal Boundary Description Acreage 6 1/3 acres

Beginning at A, at the intersection of Brown Road and Hwy 255, thence with Brown Road 525 feet to B, thence parallel to Hwy 255 W 525 ft to C, thence parallel to A-B 525 ft N. to D, thence with Hwy 255 E 525 ft to the beginning. Outside this boundary, there is farm land to the south, and industry to the west.

Sketch of Site Plan (Showing outbuildings, structures, landscape features and the site boundary as described above.)



Official Courthouse Property Reference:

Barren County Courthouse

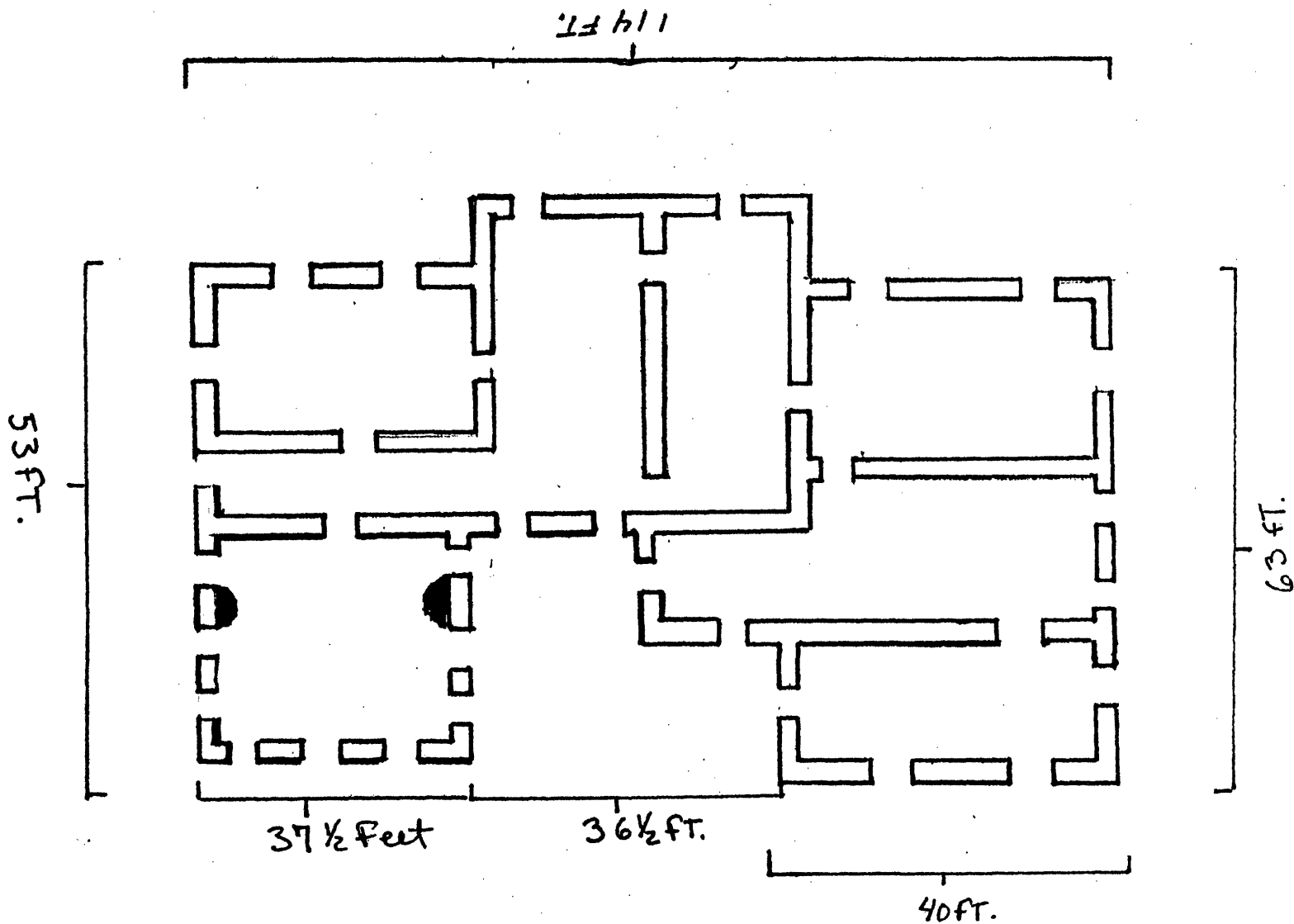
BN-
P. 5 of

NOV 26 1906

N

JUN 6 1906

BELLE'S TAVERN (BN-312)
(Early Stone Bldgs. of KY TR)



Belle's Tavern