

1481

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Kennedy-Hunsinger Farm (Boundary increase)
other names/site number JF221

2. Location

street & number 4334 Taylorsville Road NA not for publication
city, town Louisville vicinity
state Kentucky code KY county Jefferson code 111 zip code 40220

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	1	1 buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	4	1 sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	5	3 structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	1	0 objects
		12	4 Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
Louisville and Jefferson County
Multiple Property Listing

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of certifying official David L. Morgan, Director Date 8-17-90
& State Historic Preservation Officer, KY Heritage Council
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official Date
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. 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):

Signature of the Keeper: Patricia Andrus Date of Action: 10/11/90

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture/Subsistence:

agricultural field-pasture, wheatfield
animal facility-stockyard

Domestic: single dwelling-residence,
outbuildings

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture/Subsistence:

agricultural field-sod, wheatfield

Domestic: single dwelling-residence

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Early Republic

Federal--"I-House"

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone: limestone

walls Wood: weatherboard, board & batten

roof Metal: tin

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

See continuation sheet 7.1

8/27/20

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)
Agriculture

Period of Significance
1809-1930

Significant Dates
1836, 1848
1859, 1915,
1930.

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Builder
Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

see continuation sheet 8.1

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

see continuation sheet 9.1

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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Jefferson Co. Hist. Preservation & Archives Division

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property 144.297 acres

UTM References

A	1,6	6,2,1,9,8,0	4,2,3,0,8,1,0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C	1,6	6,2,1,9,3,0	4,2,2,9,6,8,0

B	1,6	6,2,2,4,1,1,0	4,2,3,0,1,1,8,0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D	1,6	6,2,1,5,6,0	4,2,2,9,9,3,0

E: 16 621 570 4230 620
Jeffersontown, KY Quad

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

This property includes the entire 144.2797 acres that comprise District 22, Block 37, Lot 51 (merged with lots 50,56) in the unincorporated area of Jefferson County, Kentucky.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

see continuation sheet 10.2

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Daniel G. Carey, Historic Preservation Analyst
organization Jeff.Co.Hist.Pres.&Archives Division date 30 May 1990
street & number Suite 204, Louisville Gardens telephone (502) 625-5761
city or town Louisville state Kentucky zip code 40202

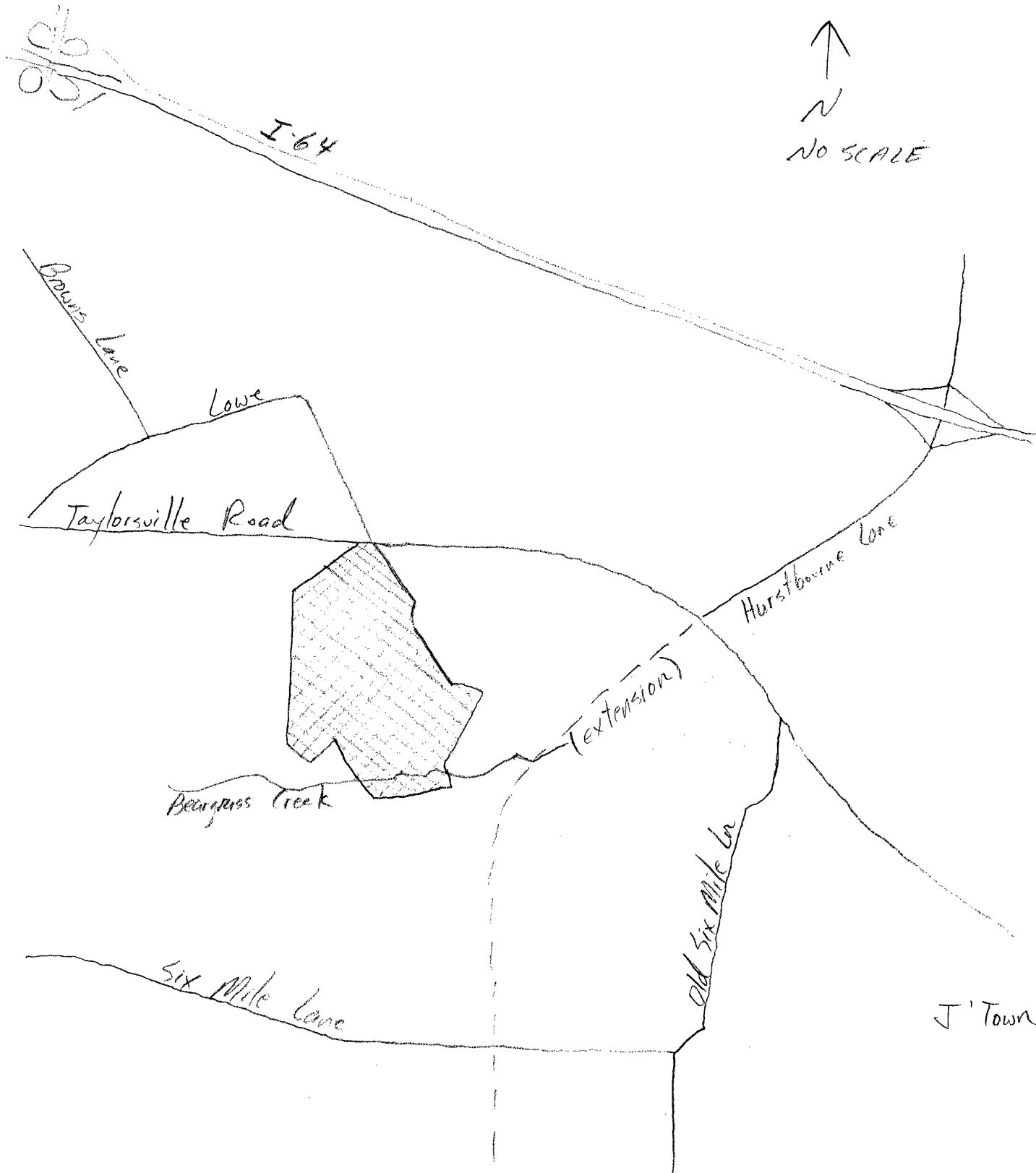
8/27/90

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Kennedy-Hunsinger Farm, JF221
Jefferson County, Kentucky



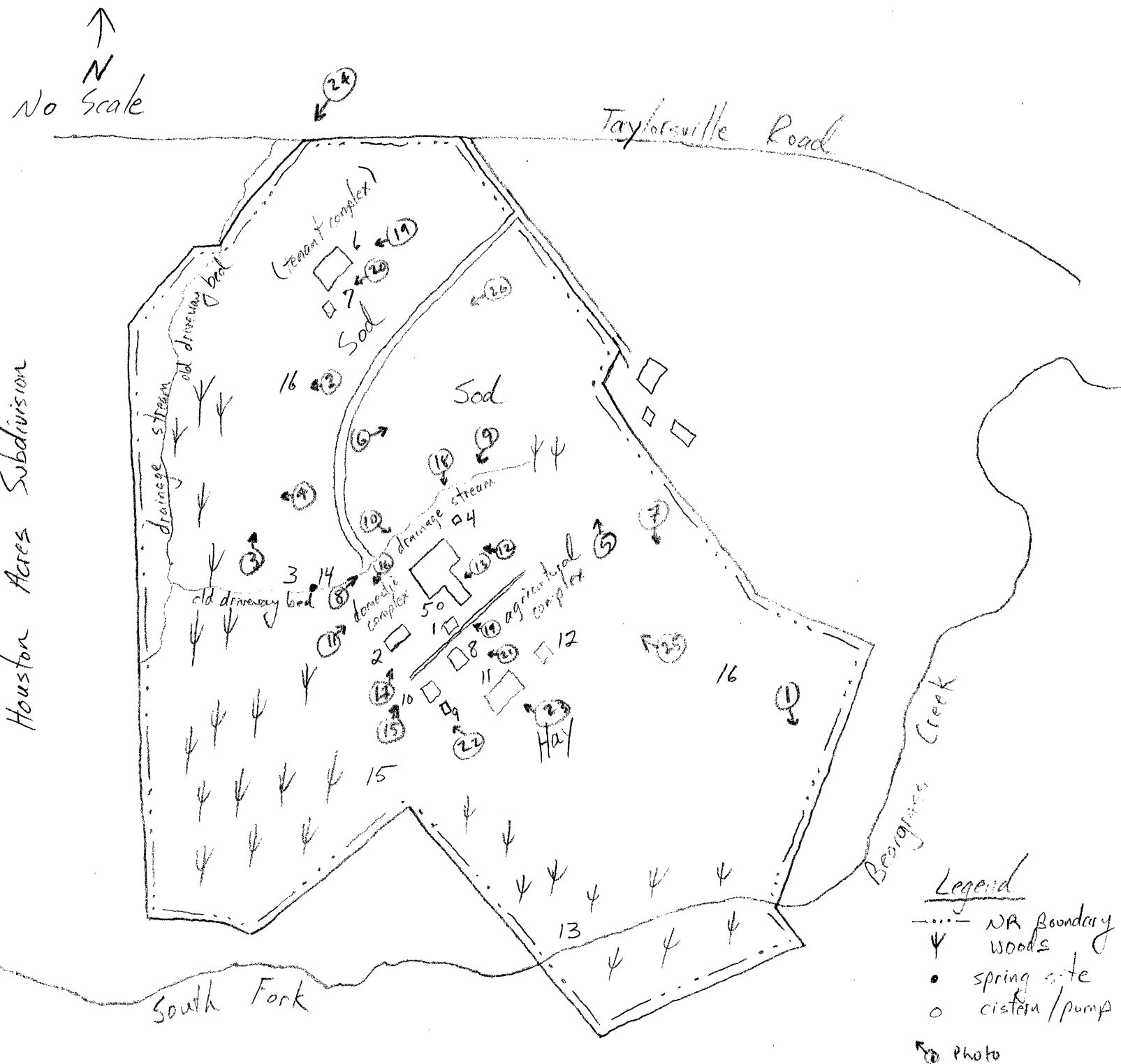
8/27/90

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Kennedy-Hunsinger Farm, JF221
Jefferson County, Kentucky



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Kennedy-Hunsinger Farm, JF221
Jefferson County, Kentucky

Section number 7 Page 3

Domestic Complex

- Main house*, contributing building, ca. 1809
1. Smokehouse, contributing structure, ca. 1840
 2. Garage/Slave quarters, contributing structure, ca. 1853
 3. Stream/old driveway bed, contributing site, 1858 Atlas
 4. Playhouse, non-contributing building, ca. 1940s
 5. Cistern, contributing object, ca. 1860s

Agricultural Complex

6. Transverse crib barn, contributing building, ca. 1920
7. Tool shed, contributing structure, ca. 1920
8. Poultry house, contributing structure, ca. 1925
9. Calf shed, contributing structure, ca. 1925
10. Metal storage shed, non-contributing structure, ca. 1940s
11. Garage/utility shed, non-contributing structure, ca. 1940s
12. Combine shed, non-contributing structure, ca. 1960s

Setting

13. Creek, contributing site
14. Springhouse, non-contributing site
15. Woods, contributing site
16. Fields, contributing site

* previously listed in the National Register

The Kennedy Farm is an unusually pristine property in southeastern Jefferson County that maintains much of its original integrity in regard to its retention of significant acreage, its preservation of main house and outbuildings, its active agricultural use, and its setting among the natural boundaries of woods, fields, and creeks. The property contains 16 features to consider. Of the 16, 11 contribute to the property's significance and only 5 do not contribute. The features are divided into three groups: domestic complex, agricultural complex (tenant complex), and setting. Each will be addressed in its proper group as to its significance, type, and contribution to the entire nominated property of a little more than 144 acres.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetKennedy-Hunsinger Farm, JF221
Jefferson County, KentuckySection number 7 Page 4

The Kennedy Farm is, as the middle class farm property type registration requirements demand, an average farm. It is precisely this ordinary, common categorization, however, that determines its significance. The farm is exemplary in its longstanding association with mid-scale agricultural enterprise; to say this farm may be a paradigm of a sample would not be overstating the case. Indeed, it represents the majority. How better to learn about something (middle class farming in this instance) than to study the typical or representative? In sheer numbers alone, the Kennedy Farm represents a model for nearly 40% of the farms in Jefferson County during the middle portion of the period of significance, 1800-1930.

It is not unusual to find that the Kennedy Farm lies in one of the most fertile regions in Jefferson County. Exceptional soil composition and well-drained lands made for versatile, error forgiving planting. Although a few early tax records referred to areas around the subject property as "3d rate," this is only because the eventual "1st rate" land had to be mellowed by several seasons of tilling and successive planting. Only after initial phases of work, then, did the emergence of bumper corn and wheat crops appear. Farming was not a "get rich-quick" scheme, and it did not draw impatient people to it. The opening of the Crider-Corydon Associations soils in southeastern Jefferson County would provide fertile farming for five successive generations of families on this property.

The Kennedy Farm lies on the broad watershed between the Middle Fork and the South Fork of the Beargrass Creek. Level to sloping soils on broad ridges (avg. 600' above sea level) and loess rich mantles over extensive limestone beds made for a brown, rich, silty/loamy topsoil. The subsoil, too, was fructuous--featuring a reddish brown silty clay. Scattered outcroppings of limestone, present today on the property, provided stone for building and fertilizing. The soil was deemed suitable for general farming and for raising beef and dairy cattle. Corn, alfalfa, grains, and tobacco fared particularly well in these soils, though records show little significant tobacco growing on the property (non uncommon in Jefferson County, see Agriculture Context). The land was easy to till and responded well to lime and fertilizer, and generally maintained a uniform 12" depth in level areas. The soils were capable of supporting

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetKennedy-Hunsinger Farm, JF221
Jefferson County, KentuckySection number 7 Page 5

crops in a wide range of moisture, and with deep topsoils and minimal slope, the erosion hazard was minimal.

On the surface, the soil supported generous woods and wildlife. Maple, pine, cedar, hickory, ash, and oak covered the area, as did deer, rabbit, fox, dove, and quail. In the case of the Evingers and the Kennedys, the woods supplied cedar posts for fencing and building, pine shingles for roofing, blue poplar for weatherboarding, and wild game for sport. George Evinger planted cedars in the domestic complex, perhaps to somewhat ornament the living space, and perhaps, also, to recognize the fruit of these building materials. In addition, the arsenal of forests rendered wood for fuel and game for sport and venison.

The property contains a rich variety of landforms: ranging from the nearly flat front fields now being farmed for sod, to the sloping back fields used for corn, wheat, and soy beans, to the ravine in the floodplain of Beargrass Creek--now the location of a dry bed reservoir constructed to control flooding along the creek. The existence of varied and versatile functioning environmental features denotes the influence of a conservative land manager. Using, but not exhausting, the available resources on a piece of property was an ethic associated with the prudent middle class farmer. While there was less innovation and experimentation than with the gentleman farms, the middle class farmer did plan for the future by not eliminating his assets.

The long growing season (180+ days), temperate climate (35F winter, 76F summer), and significant annual rainfall (40"+) added to the already conducive growing environment. Responsible and vigilant care of the land was necessary to maintain a productive level. Thus, in the case of the Kennedys and Hunsingers, the property blossomed under the tutelage of fathers', sons', and slaves' care. The pendulum would swing back and forth, however, as slaves were freed, sons moved to their own properties, more acreage was added--all moving the owner back to square one. This cyclical pattern of establishment, growth, management, adaptation, and resumption meant that the middle class farmer could progress to a point, but he was always dependent upon the land and other outside influences to determine his financial stability. This, of course, contrasts with what is known about the gentleman farmers.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

8/27/20

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetKennedy-Hunsinger Farm, JF221
Jefferson County, KentuckySection number 7 Page 6

The Kennedy Farm ranged in size from as small as 100 acres to as large as 875 acres, but these extremes can be explained in terms of the manpower available to manage such variously sized parcels. Post Civil War factors like loss of slaves, rising property taxes for urban periphery properties, and the loss of the family workforce to independence all acted to constrict the average farmer's rise to the upper class. Middle class farmers relied more on mass production than innovation, thereby pinning success on the management of available land and workforce. When and if that success faded, the only recourse was to scale back--thus accounting for the gentle sinusoidal value pattern present in tax records.

PROPERTY # Setting (photos 1-7, 24, 26)

- 13 Focusing specifically on the subject property, the setting includes four contributing sites: creek, springhouse, woods, and fields. The creek, figuratively like the Mesopotamian Valley, is the raison d'etre for this fertile watershed. Stretched between the Beargrass forks and Weicher Creek, the property gained its notoriety from the rich Crider-Corydon soils. The
- 15 South Fork of Beargrass Creek roughly forms the southern boundary of the property, and it is still very much in a wild state: red fox, deer, and falcons are not uncommon sites throughout the year. The woods and creek comprise two contributing sites that belie both original setting and historic character of the farm. Also, the creek and woods continue to function as woodlot, wild meadow, wasteland, and buffer between Houston Acres to the west and the rest of the farm. Historically, this wooded buffer existed between the William Kennedy property and the Mrs. Lowe property, as seen on the 1879 Beers and Lanagan Atlas of Jefferson County.
- 16 The fields are also a contributing site to the natural and man-made setting. The fields reflect the influence of man on the property--a constant theme throughout the generations. The front fields (near Taylorsville Road) are very level and fertile. These were probably the key growing fields, and unlike the gentleman farmer who may have used these for show crops, these fields represented the "bread and butter" of the average

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

8/27/90

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetKennedy-Hunsinger Farm, JF221
Jefferson County, KentuckySection number 7 Page 7

farmer. This area comprises where the bulk of corn, wheat, rye, hay, and oats were grown. Even today, the owners recognize this area as the "blue chip" ground--using it for the profitable sod farming enterprise (Kentucky 31 fescue at 75¢ a square yard). The adjacent fields immediately behind the agricultural complex were also fully utilized, though the farmhands say the yield is not as good on these sections. Hay, soybean, and wheat have been grown in recent years, and wheat and corn are planned for the future.

The situation of the domestic and agricultural complexes in the center of the farm both functionally and poetically explains the middle class farmer's philosophy. The farmer surrounded himself with his flagship resources for ease of access and perhaps a little for aesthetic purposes. He was likely more interested in what he saw as ornamental from his perspective (for instance a good crop), as opposed to what the gentleman farmer preferred--showcasing crops and plantings for passersby.

Domestic Complex (photos 8-18, 25)

The Kennedy Farm's domestic complex can be considered in the strictest of terms as a pure dwelling space. The house and immediate surroundings were clearly delineated as separate from both fields and the agricultural complex. Both natural and artificial boundaries clearly mark the separation from living area to working area. In fact, although only a few feet separate the domestic complex from the agricultural complex, that line was demarcated by a fence. Today the fence is gone, but a gate remains as a symbol of spatial segregation.

The domestic complex includes the main house (contributing building), smokehouse (contributing structure), garage (contributing structure), stream/old driveway bed (contributing site), playhouse (non-contributing building), and cistern/pump (contributing object). A root cellar was located underneath the rear T-wing addition to the main building, but this was considered part of the main building and was therefore not an independent resource.

The domestic complex is bounded on the front (north) by a small stream/old road bed; to the west by the present driveway;

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

8/27/90

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetKennedy-Hunsinger Farm, JF221
Jefferson County, KentuckySection number 7 Page 8

to the east by a field, and to the south by the agricultural complex. Similarly, the Mills-Wheeler farm features a relatively small and well defined domestic complex (JF168). A small, but very mature grouping of cedar, maple, ash, elm, and oak stand to the front of the main building. More ornate, younger trees appear on the east side of the house--redbud, holly, apple. Plantings were conscious, though without the clearly discernible pattern that exists in country estates and gentleman farms.

Main
House

The main house continues to be a principal factor in the consideration of the farm as a National Register property. It, perhaps most vividly, has weathered the natural decaying forces of time and maintains its major distinguishing physical features, associative qualities and information potential.

The house is an early Federal style "I-house" (ca. 1809) with a T-Wing addition to the rear (ca. 1883). The two and a half story, five-bay, single pile main block rests on a cut limestone foundation, and features a green painted, standing seam sheet metal roof and two interior gable end chimneys with stuccoed tops and exposed first floor chimney backs. Access to the interior of the house was not gained, but there is speculation that some unusual construction techniques exist.

For instance, the chimneys are believed to be stone only where one can readily see from the exterior. Recounted folk legends indicate that this phenomenon (peculiar to Virginia's eastern shore and other mid Atlantic states--Maryland) may be a traditional material culture carryover from the east coast to the west. Another possible theory explains the incomplete chimney as a symbolic measure of wealth. The time and expense afforded to the luxury of completing an entire two story stone chimney in the early 1800s by an average farmer may have been prohibitive. Instead, the farmer went so far up as time, cost, and materials would allow. Only two other variants of this are known in Jefferson County: Mills-Wheeler (JF168) and Matthew Bichoff House (JF131) half stone and half brick chimneys.

Another speculation about the building's design suggests that it may be a timber frame building. The supposed 1809 date of construction would credit George Evinger with the early

8/27/80

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetKennedy-Hunsinger Farm, JF221
Jefferson County, KentuckySection number 7 Page 9

construction, but this cannot be corroborated with any incontrovertible evidence. Instead, the size and scale of the building and Evinger's planting of cedars (possible construction material) on the property imply a log/pole construction technique. Accessibility to sawn timber was rare, and the building is probably too large to be constructed of hewn log.

Other prominent details on the house include 9/6 sash windows on the first floor and 6/6 sash windows on the second floor and rear wing. Attic windows flanking the chimneys are 4 pane casement. The front facade has a central Christian door with 3-light transom and a raised front porch on brick piers. The hipped green shake shingle porch roof is supported by four very large newell posts at the center and ends, and a simple 3' high vertical rail across the front. The porch has a ship-lap ceiling and 1"x3" tongue and groove poplar floor boards. Dark green cedar shutters flank the windows--original to the house and probably made on the property by Evinger. The shutters are unusually thick and are supported by hand forged 16" hinges.

The rear wing is actually two buildings that were joined into one. Family history dates the first rear addition at 1883, two rooms and a porch. About 1908 this rear porch was removed and replaced. It is screened, has a rail similar to the front porch, hipped roof, and decorative pointed bargeboard on the side roofline. The addition foundation is covered by board and batten, though it appears to be resting on stone piers. The last two rooms on the addition probably comprised a summer kitchen and bedroom and likely post-date the first addition. Its construction consciously mirrored that of the main block--featuring a gable end, 6/6 windows, and gable end attic window.

From written descriptions of the interior of the main house, it also maintains much of its original integrity and adds to the significance of the building's significance. The center hall passage floor plan features two rooms up and two rooms down. The rear addition enlarged the house, but maintained the simple, functional character of the main block. The whole lower floor of the original part is white ash. All rooms in the original part of the first and second floors have chair rail. High, yellow pine mantels with hand carved reeded pilasters

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

8/27/90

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetKennedy-Hunsinger Farm, JF221
Jefferson County, KentuckySection number 7 Page 10

are also original. Built in cabinets flank the fireplaces, and vertical panel doors are placed throughout the house.

- 1 The smokehouse, situated immediately to the rear of the main house, is a well-preserved stone building with gable ends and shake shingle roof. The roof shingles were probably hand-cut pine shingles (determined from inventory and settlement records of a large supply of pine shingles, 1836). According to family records, the smokehouse was built of hand-cut limestone by John Kennedy. There is a large hand-hewn black walnut log that serves as the structure's sill. Three symmetrical vents provide ventilation on each side of the smokehouse.
- 2 The garage is a board and batten shed with two bays and a storage area. It rests on a stone pier foundation, has one four-pane casement window and a standing seam sheet metal roof with gable ends. This structure may have been used as an equipment shed, although its location within the domestic complex and its size indicate that this may have been the slave quarters at one time.
- 3 There is a small stream/old driveway bed that sits to the front of the house running east-west from the northern boundary of the domestic complex. It was the original entry to the property and house; tree line and topographic formation indicate ruts where the drive once existed. This is corroborated by driveway markings on the 1858 atlas. The driveway was probably altered in the mid-20th century, when the Houston Acres subdivision was formed near the old lane. The new entry drive bisects the front sod parcels and provides an accessible route to the fields and to the domestic complex from Taylorsville Road.
- 4 The playhouse is a $\frac{1}{2}$ scale log building reproduction. It was constructed in the mid 20th century by Elizabeth Simon's grandfather and is not consistent with the period of significance. The cabin is $1\frac{1}{2}$ stories, single pen, with saddle notched cedar log poles. The gable ends are covered with weatherboard siding, and they support a shake shingle roof. A small overhang constitutes a front porch. A railing and stone landing also grace the facade.
- 5 The cistern/pump sits in the yard immediately adjacent

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

8/27/90

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetKennedy-Hunsinger Farm, JF221
Jefferson County, KentuckySection number 7 Page 11

to the main block and rear wing. Its proximity to the old kitchen and its inclusion in the domestic space indicate the contributing function of the well.

Agricultural Complex

The agricultural complex, the literal and figurative heart of the middle class farm, is located immediately behind the domestic complex. However, an appendage to the agricultural complex that lies to the front of the property in the sod fields should be included in this section because of its functional support for the entire operation. Despite its distance from the main compound, this satellite provides a glimpse of the latter stages of the farm and its emergence as a 20th century specialty farm.

6 The transverse crib barn is located about 50 meters west of the new entry drive. It faces south and is related to the main sod fields. The building has a central gable with flanking entries. Two symmetrical saddlebags with low hipped roofs are attached to either side of the main bay, and each has a central opening for equipment storage. Though somewhat dilapidated, the discernible features include vertical board and batten siding and standing seam sheet metal roof. Nearby, approximately 7 15 meters south of the barn, sits a small single pen shed. A corrugated metal low-hipped roof and small gable stoop over the doorway. The vertical board and batten siding is identical to that of the barn. A similar, now demolished, tenant house also stood amid this satellite complex. It seems plausible to think that this area served as the tenant headquarters during the very early 20th century. So situated, the farmhands lived and worked in a contiguous area and provided security for the front of the farm property.

8 Considering the main agricultural complex, there are several structures that contribute to the farm's integrity. Wills and inventory and settlement records indicate a chicken operation on the farm during the latter 19th and early 20th century. A vertical board and batten poultry house with hipped roof and short overhang has several screened openings for ventilation.

8/27/20

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Kennedy-Hunsinger Farm, JF221
Jefferson County, Kentucky

Section number 7 Page 12

This structure was constructed within the period of significance (ca. 1930) and represents the consistency of the Kennedy farm through its simple, yet functional contribution to the built landscape.

9 Another contributing structure, of similar period, is situated
20 meters west of the poultry house. This cow shed was built
in the early 20th century to shelter calves when feeding.
10 It is a small, vertical board and batten design with standing
seam sheet metal, low hipped roof. A modern, metal shed stands
to the right of the calf shed. It is used for equipment storage,
but it is not within the period of significance. Nearby, 20
11 & 12 meters to the southwest, stand two mid 20th century sheds with
significance outside the subject period. The larger of the
two has gable ends and storage space for equipment. The roof
and sides are corrugated metal. Of some curiosity, however,
is the pair of 5-pane horizontal wooden doors in one of the
openings. Too ornate and traditional a material for this structure,
perhaps they were taken off one of the more prominent outbuildings,
eg. the tenant house. The other shed is simply a metal roof
and supports for sheltering a large combine.

14 The remaining historical feature of the agricultural
complex is the springhouse site. Located approximately 50
meters west of the domestic complex boundaries, it is uncharacteristically
removed from the main dwellings. What remains of the springhouse
is only its cut limestone bed and a partial wall. An oral
history interview with one of the farm hands gleaned that another,
smaller springhouse/ice house may have existed nearer the domestic
complex in the draw of the old driveway bed. The disintegration
of this building can logically be explained in terms of the
middle class farmer's management philosophy. As certain functional
items became outmoded and no longer utilitarian, they were
phased out of the maintenance schedule. That is, when the
ice/springhouse provided no function on the farm, its state
of repair deteriorated. Other buildings (garage, calf shed)
that could be recycled and adaptively used--were used.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

8/27/90

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Kennedy-Hunsinger Farm, JF221
Jefferson County, Kentucky

Section number 8 Page 1

Deed History of Subject Property

- 1774 Virginia Military Grant to Hugh Allen, 1000 acres.
- 1794 Hugh Allen to Henry Pottorff, 489 acres.
- 1795 Henry Pottorff to George Evinger, 173 acres.
- 1836 Katherine Evinger(wid) to John E. Kennedy, 111 acres.
(tract and appurtenances)
- 1847 John Kennedy dies; sons Jimmy and Billy are willed property.
- 1853 James Kennedy to William Kennedy, 53 acres.
- 1859 William Kennedy to Frederick Hunsinger, 121 acres.
- 1908 Deed of Partition for Frederick Hunsinger--wife Catherine
was executrix; Albert Hunsinger received 100+ acres;
several others divided remaining tracts.
- 1915 Division of Dower for Catherine Hunsinger; Albert Hunsinger
received 33 acres; several others divided remaining
tracts.
- 1981 Lot 51 merged with Lots 50 and 56 to form current lot,
144 acres.

This outline refers to the nominated property only. John Kennedy added this tract to several other tracts which he had assembled over the previous eight years to complete an 875-acre farm. Kennedy's actual homeplace (demolished) was located across Taylorsville Road (north) from the subject tract and adjoined Bullitt's Oxmoor estate.

8/27/90

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Kennedy-Hunsinger Farm, JF221
Jefferson County, Kentucky

Section number 8 Page 2

The Kennedy-Hunsinger Farm (hereinafter referred to as "the Kennedy Farm"), including the previously listed National Register property Kennedy-Hunsinger House (JF221), is significant at the local level under Criterion A as an active and excellently preserved example of a middle class farm. As part of the co-submitted "Middle Class Farms in Jefferson County, Kentucky, 1800-1930" property type nomination and the pending listing of the "Agriculture in Louisville and Jefferson County, Kentucky, 1800-1930" context, the Kennedy Farm retains original acreage, integrity, form, and function associated with the property since George Evinger first settled on this tract in 1795.

The Kennedy Farm thrives as an independent, agriculturally based enterprise on the western edge of Jeffersontown. Situated on the immediate fringes of the Hurstbourne Lane corridor and the immense Stony Brook multi-use development, the Kennedy Farm's agriculture-use zoning and preservation-minded owners defy the fate of surrounding suburbs and commercial development. Instead, the farm perseveres--seemingly unaffected by, or at least uninterested in the surrounding activity. In fact, a steady, unpretentious, yeomanlike attitude emanates from both workers and owners.

This is not to say that pride in the landscape does not exist. Rather, the middle class farm placed emphasis on consistent levels of production and sound property management. It can reasonably be stated that while the middle class farms did not boast the designed landscape and ornamentally enhanced built environments of the gentleman farms, they did feature substantial dwellings, various outbuilding amenities, and a managed landscape.

The Kennedy Farm elucidates these themes by surviving as a representation of the surrounding Taylorsville Road area farms present in 1879 (Lowe, Hun(t)singer-JF221, A.R. Kennedy-JF222, and Yenowine-JF321), and as a variant of the Six Mile Lane area farms also present in the same year (Bryan-JF213, JF214, Dravo-JF215, Conrad-JF217, Allen-JF220, and Funk-JF223). A comparison and contrast of the elements required of the middle class property type with what is already known about Jefferson County's agricultural context and gentleman farm property type will yield an individual statement of significance for this property as a middle class farm.

8/27/90

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetKennedy-Hunsinger Farm, JF221
Jefferson County, KentuckySection number 8 Page 3

Of the 168 properties deemed to have middle class farm characteristics (see property type), the Kennedy farm compares favorably in terms of retention of integrity with nearly all of the properties. However, there is a contingent of largely southeastern Jefferson County farms that very closely mirror the concepts of the Kennedy Farm, and thereby are mentioned as a truly exemplary group of similar properties: Springbank Farm (JF128), Levin Bates House (JF148), Matthew Bischoff House (JF131), Mills-Wheeler House (JF168), Presley-Tyler Farm (JF190), Yenowine-Kennedy Farm (JF222), East Cedar Hill Institute (JF235), Gilliland (JF321), Jefferson Marders House (JF359, JF360), Wheeler Farm (JF572), Andrew Hoke House (JF659), John Seebolt House (JF683), Burden-Wiseheart Farm (JF704), Scarce-Mathis Farm (JF707), and William Nicholson Farm (JF708). Each of the aforementioned properties has been listed or has been evaluated to possess National Register quality in field surveys.

The Kennedy Farm is less than 40 years away from attaining status as a bicentennial farm--a rare achievement, especially for property located within a major metropolitan area of more than one million people. Equally surprising may be that the property is not held by a corporation; is not part of a syndicate; and is not operating in a highly commercial fashion. That is, the farm is not biding time waiting for development, nor is it a public "U-PICK" sort of farm. The Kennedy farm is a "by appointment" sod farm that will, according to one of its owners, grow before it shrinks.

Part of the property's lure and charm as an operating farm is its unique position as a property with a bright future. Unlike many National Register properties whose fates lie in the hands of a planning commission or a hostile owner, the Kennedy Farm has the opportunity to maintain its level of integrity and activity for some time. Thus, the resource's educational value looms large in the wake of this boundary amendment and eventual easement protection.

This conservative, agrarian influenced philosophy that depicts the Kennedy Farm and its family line of ownership are traits inherited from the Evingers, Kennedys, and Hunsingers. Marriages, whether in or out of the extended family, have not diluted the respect for the property; they have enhanced it. Each successive owner or generation felt it their responsibility to advance the property and the traditions associated with

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

S/27/90

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Kennedy-Hunsinger Farm, JF221
Jefferson County, Kentucky

Section number 8 Page 4

it.

The below mentioned illustrations, considered together with the Section 7, provide a sufficient context for analyzing the property's significance. Each contributing factor, whether cultural, familial, agricultural or economic played a role in determining the status of this farm as middle class, and each will be discussed in relation to the whole.

The establishment of Jeffersontown in 1797 marked a period when southeastern Jefferson County began to grow steadily and to assume an independent identity. The first settlers were independent farmers, and they remained independent farmers--producing in their fields and homes most of the food and finished goods they needed. The newcomers from east coast (Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania) pioneer families received land grants and moved west to claim them. They were identified as "not poor, destitute people, but seasoned veterans of the relentless combat between man and nature for a living in the soil. Their farms in Maryland and Pennsylvania had been some of the most productive in the country and had received their most diligent care," (Jobson, p.11). The Kennedys and Hunsingers each fit this description, and their descendants also maintained this character across generations.

George Evinger (also spelled Aomger and Avinger) is credited with first being associated with the nominated property. His 41 year tenure (1795-1836) on the property is considered to be the initial foray into making permanent improvements on the land--both built and agricultural. Two independent reference notes credit the construction of the main house to Evinger in 1809. This is not surprising considering the timeline of his ownership, the relative wealth he acquired (indicated in inventory and settlement records), and the large supply of building materials present (pine shingles, tar, and cedar poles) in his estate records.

The deed history denotes that John Kennedy did not live in the main house on the nominated property, but he did make improvements to the land (smokehouse). A common folk legend associated with the property recounts John Kennedy returning from a fox hunt on Sunday morning and dropping dead near the smokehouse in his yard. This family folklore uses symbolism to draw connections among owner, built environment, and land.

8/27/90

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetKennedy-Hunsinger Farm, JF221
Jefferson County, KentuckySection number 8 Page 5

So while his impact on the property was less direct in that he lived across the street, it was, nevertheless, clear. By purchasing the property, he set up his children in farming.

The Hunsinger clan struck an equally lasting impression upon the farm as well. Frederick Hunsinger also purchased adjoining tracts of land to increase his farm for his six children: William F., Houston C. (Houston Acres Subdivision), Charles F., Mary Ellen, Hallie C., and Albert Sydney. Albert was born in the main house in 1867, and he lived there his entire life. Albert married Fannie A. Hikes, daughter of Andrew Hikes. Andrew Hikes was the grandson of George Hikes, who built a stone house that still stands. Through another marriage between the Hikes's and the Hunsingers', a house remains in the family that is known as the Hikes-Hunsinger House (JF675). The Kennedys and the Hunsingers also intermarried; it is their descendants that retain title to the subject property.

The property's cultivated use spans more than 150 years. More noteworthy, however, is the consistent, almost repetitious cattle and crop management of the farm. A study of relevant tax records and other scholarship on the impact of average western European immigrant farmers on the agricultural economy will yield almost predictable farm records. For example, from the years 1840 to 1875, a fairly steady production of hay, corn, cattle, hogs, and grains are evident on the Kennedy Farm. Furthermore, the average annual farm value also remained relatively constant during this early and mid period of significance.

With few outstanding extremes (most of which can be attributed to children leaving the farm, supplementing acreage, or weather*), the farm value hovered in the \$7,000 to \$13,000 range between the years 1850 and 1890--which is certainly within the framework outlined in the property type. Between the years 1855 and 1878 there existed a wide range of weather conditions: the exposure and susceptibility to crop damage during such weather extremes; the Kennedy Farm tax records reflect some of these conditions, but only as perceptible dips in the long progression of growth.

*(The years 1855-1857 were noted for severe winters. Heavy snowfall occurred during 1862, 1864, and 1870. The summers of 1877-1878 were very hot, and windstorms were present in 1880. These circumstances would have caused serious problems

8/27/90

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetKennedy-Hunsinger Farm, JF221
Jefferson County, KentuckySection number 8 Page 6

for the "single crop" farmer, but those who diversified and rotated crops were less affected.)

During the period of significance, the farm produced 30-40 head of cattle; 30-40 hogs, used half a dozen horses or mules; employed 5-6 slaves; and yielded several hundred bushels of corn, hay, wheat, rye, and hemp each, though corn and hay invariably led the returns. There was little evidence of any experimentation with crops and cattle, though some dabbling with barley, hops, oats, and onions were recorded during John Kennedy's last years and Frederick Hunsinger's tenure (Inventory and Settlement Records). One might suppose that while it is likely that middle class farmers joined in discussion of advancing farm innovation and technology, it was equally likely that only those farmers with independent income would employ these tactics.

George Evinger diversified his farming practices (as determined from tax records and his estate records showing stockpiles of various crops) and these efforts were revived by John Kennedy: each raised sheep to provide wool for winter clothing and flax to be made into linen for summer clothing. John Kennedy's inventory and settlement lists 24 sheep, sheep shears, and loom. Raising sheep was evidently a short lived venture on this property, and in fact never took a strong foothold in Jefferson County. Sheep herding was perhaps a harbinger of the future, however, as evidenced in late 20th century Kentucky farmer's response to seeking an alternative to the heavily regulated tobacco market. Though the presence of sheep in available farm records declined, the tradition of growing fruits and vegetables (also begun with Evinger) flourished. Evinger's final settlement reveals a substantial crop of onions (see also Diamond Fruit Farm, JF215) and many dried fruits in storage. Mrs. Elizabeth Simon, a Kennedy descendant, recounted that there was an abundant garden inside the confines of the agricultural complex. Various vegetables were grown there well into the 20th century.

The diversification into grain crops were likely a result of prevailing folk traditions associated with Irish-Catholic and German families. Kennedy was of Scotch-Irish descent from Maryland, and Hunsinger was from Alsace. A strong contingent of eastern Jefferson County German immigrants had re-established a tradition of brewing beer by the mid-19th century (a copper still appears in Hunsinger's settlement records). And, just

8/27/90

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetKennedy-Hunsinger Farm, JF221
Jefferson County, KentuckySection number 8 Page 7

as the traditions of hard, honest work endured, so did that of social folkways. Elizabeth Simon recollected that the farm sometimes served as a tavern (though not licensed) for travellers on the road between Louisville and Jeffersontown. Brewing and hospitality were traditions peculiar to roadside farms, Germans, Irish, and especially the many famous taverns of the Jeffersontown area. "The tavern, or ordinary, played a major role in the social lives of the townspeople and farmers. It was the area information center, where one could discuss the latest news of national and local interest," (Jobson).

Other related research substantiates the consistencies found in middle class farming during the mid and late 19th centuries. Research from the Populist era reveals steady and consistent gains in the general farming of hay, wheat, and corn--all after the Civil War. A feeling of pronounced prosperity reigned as superior transportation and advancing technology raised accessibility, market demand, and price returns for the farmer.

Paralleling this growth was a broadening of the communication network among farmers. They began sharing their acquired and accumulated knowledge of farming. Mass periodicals littered the country, with each carving a particular niche of special interest. One very common, very popular periodical catered to the "Plain farmer folks," American Agriculturist. Articles were quick and to the point, describing practical advances of the science of agriculture and rural life. Also, the articles were shorter, more serious accounts of problem solving--unlike the prosaic passages of the loftier gentleman farm periodicals. The American Agriculturist's circulation targeted the farmer "who wants plain barns and who will do most of the work himself." The farmer who would dig and lay foundations and cut timber was typical of the readership. An illustrative vignette of this self help motif is mentioned in Section 7--John Kennedy built the smokehouse.

The surge of periodical literature to be quickly read and digested by middle class farmers did not, however, instill a sense in them to write down their thoughts and experiences--at least not in great detail. Somewhat indicative of the working class plight of the middle class farmer is the lack of hard data (personal farm journals) that are available on the condition of the farm property. Speculatively speaking, the farmer had

8/27/90

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetKennedy-Hunsinger Farm, JF221
Jefferson County, KentuckySection number 8 Page 8

little time for prosaic accounts of farm life; rather he lived it and put it to memory to be passed along to the next generation. The gentleman farmer as supervisor had time to muse and ponder farm operations; his accounts were likely to be read as reference. The middle class farmer, conversely, toiled and taught in the fields.

Middle class farmers were inexorably linked with the land. They had no independent source of income other than what was derived in the fields. They were involved with the community to the extent it did not preoccupy them from farming. For example, William Kennedy was listed as a "teamster" in Jeffersontown from 1792-1795, but not this predates his emergence as a fulltime, landowning farmer. Another example of the middle class farmer's link with taking care of the job at hand, and yet one that manifests an appreciation for broader, enduring concepts appears in William Kennedy's 1862 will. he requests that the "negroes be treated with kindness and humanity." It is this association with timely and universal issues that indicates the farmer's recognition of political and economic topics.

Advanced education, beyond what the lower class farmer would have had the opportunity for, is exemplified in A. R. Kennedy, the third of five children of John Kennedy. A. R. Kennedy was educated in the common schools and at Oldham Academy. He was a farmer; one interested in raising fine cattle and having a small but choice herd of Jersey cattle. He was an educated farmer. He married Josephine Seabold (Seebolt, JF128), thus merging families of a like status. Fittingly, A. R.'s property adjoined his brother William's property. A. R. Kennedy farmed the land, and his farmhouse outbuildings and some original property are also still standing. The local Jefferson County public elementary school immediately across the street was named for Alex R. Kennedy in 1955 in honor of his position in the community. Finally, the example of L. E. Kennedy, A.R.'s younger brother, further demonstrates the point. He was educated in the common schools and at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana, and was a farmer.

Today, the farm spawns interest in the owners' children as well. Mrs. Simon's son, Nick, helps manage the farm, and he, too, was drawn to it even after competing his college education. It seems plausible to conjecture then, that the original inducements inviting immigrants to come open up and farm America's virgin

8/27/90

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Kennedy-Hunsinger Farm, JF221
Jefferson County, Kentucky

Section number 8 Page 9

forests stayed with the five generations of farmers on the subject property. Farmers were invited on the land, and they remained on the land.

8/27/90

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

Kennedy-Hunsinger Farm, JF221
Jefferson County, Kentucky

Bibliographic References

Beers and Lanagan 1879 Atlas

Bergmann 1858 Atlas

Bullitt, Neville. Old Homes and Landmarks of Louisville and Jefferson County, vol. I & II.

Fern Creek Lore & Legacy, 200 Years. Fern Creek Womens Club 1976.

Jefferson County Clerk's Records: Deeds, Wills, Inventories and Settlements.

Jobson, Robert C. History of Early Jeffersontown and Southeastern Jefferson County, Kentucky. Gateway Press: Baltimore, 1977.

Nock, L. Floyd, III. Drummondtown: A One Horse Town. McClure Printing Co.: Virginia, 1976.

O'Malley, Nancy. Middle Class Farms on the Urban Periphery, Archaeology Report #162. University of Kentucky: Lexington, 1987.

Powell, Edwin C. Barn Plans and Outbuildings. Orange Judd Company: New York, 1912.

Rakeman, Steven J., ed. The 1870 Agriculturist. Antiquity Reprints: Rockville Centre, New York, 1980.

Simon, Elizabeth Kennedy. Interview, April 25, 1990.

Soil Survey, Jefferson County, Kentucky. U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1962.

Williams, L.A. History of The Ohio Falls Cities and Their Counties. L.A. Williams & Co.,: Cleveland, 1882.

Woodruff, Kenny. Interview, April 21, 1990.

8/27/90

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

Kennedy-Hunsinger Farm, JF221
Jefferson County, Kentucky

Geographical Data continued
UTM reference

E 16 621560 4230610

8/27/90

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 2

Kennedy-Hunsinger Farm, JF221
Jefferson County, Kentucky

10. Geographical Data continued
Boundary Justification

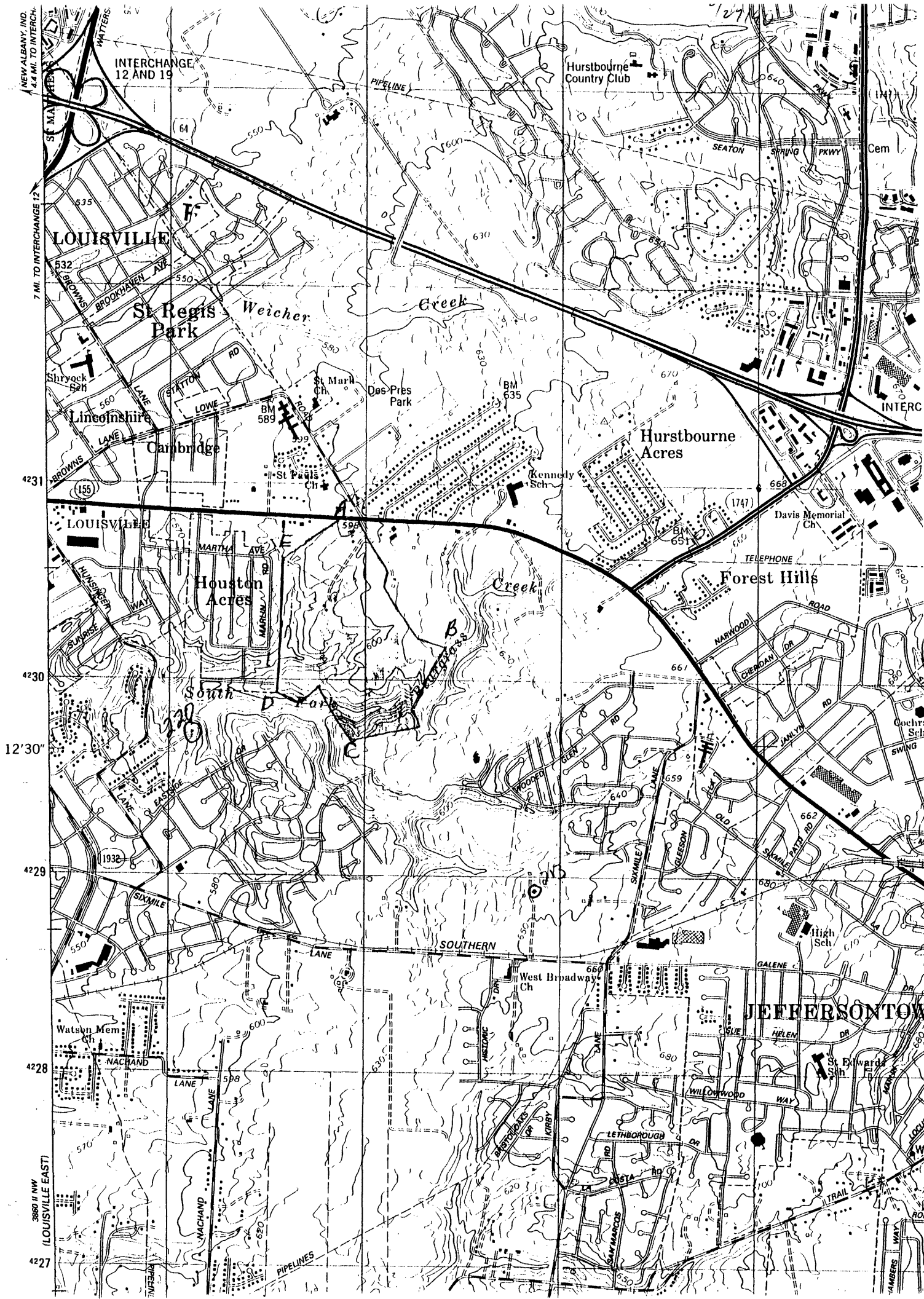
The boundary includes the farmhouse, associated outbuildings, creek, fields, and forests that have historically and consistently been a part of the Kennedy-Hunsinger Farm. Previously surveyed in 1977 and part of the 1983 Multiple Resource Area (subsumed by the 1988 Multiple Property Listing), the original Hunsinger-Kennedy House nomination included only the main building.

The Kennedy-Hunsinger Farm is polygonally shaped (see USGS map); each side of the property marks a break from the surrounding development. The northern edge of the property is bounded by Taylorsville Road. The eastern and southeastern edges of the property border both a single family residence/horse farm and a soon-to-be developed multi-family complex, respectively. A tenant house (ca. 1900) sits on this section of the farm, but is property owned by exclusively by Elizabeth Kennedy Simon. It was historically part of the Snyder farm, and it does not relate to the themes addressed in this boundary increase nomination. The southern edge of the property straddles the south fork of Beargrass Creek and backs up to several small single-family subdivisions facing Six Mile Lane. The western edge of the property abuts the Houston Acres subdivision.

The property is significant for more than the original farmhouse. Historically, the property includes an active cattle and grain farm, outbuildings, and minimally disturbed natural features. These resources, considered in conjunction with the consistent lineage of ownership, combine to form a network of form, function, and philosophy. That is, the built environment and the natural environment reflect the human impact upon each and serves to establish a pattern of consistent, moderately successful agriculture enterprise.

Thus, the entire parcel is included in this boundary expansion nomination because of its retainment of original character and historic integrity. Much acreage of the original Evinger-Kennedy-Hunsinger property lines remain intact, though the outlying tracts of the farm's maximum size (late 19th century) have faced, and continue to face development pressure. What remains of the contiguous property, however, supports this amendment to the 1983 nomination.

Jefferson town Gradient



NEW ALBANY, IND.
4.4 MI. TO INTERCH.

7 MI. TO INTERCHANGE 12

4231

4230

12° 30'

4229

4228

4227

3860 ft NW
(LOUISVILLE EAST)

WORTHINGTON CEMETERY (contd)

NAME	BORN	DIED	OTHER
ZARING, Wm R.	1848	1920	
ZARING, Mary	1852	1937	His w.
ZARING, Wm E.	1874	1925	
ZARING, A. M.	1870	1944	M.D.
ZARING, Maud Samuels	1880	19__	His w.

QUESSENBERRY CEMETERY

Located near Spottswood Lane and Clark Station Road. Copied 1972.

NAME	BORN	DIED	OTHER
BRYANT, Wm M.	1866	1889	
PAGE, Frances	8 Mar 1788	6 May 1872	W. of Joseph
PAGE, D. C.	9 Dec 1823	6 Sep 1885	
QUESSENBERRY, Aaron S.	17 Oct 1779	16 Jun 1857	
QUESSENBERRY, Henri-etta	12 Apr 1785	19 Feb 1854	His w.

GARR CEMETERY

Located a quarter mile east of Hurstbourne Lane, in Plainview. Copied 1973.

GARR, Jacob	20 Mar 1782	28 Oct 1854	
GARR, Susan	3 Feb 1784	7 Jul 1864	His w. Born Madison Co., Va.
GARR, A. G.	3 Jun 1816	17 Apr 1893	
GARR, James O.	15 Oct 1828	1 Sep 1850	
GARR, Margaret Amelia Read	15 Aug 1825	8 May 1843	17y 8m 23d
GARR, Emma Lurena	12 Jan 1856	4 Dec 1858	

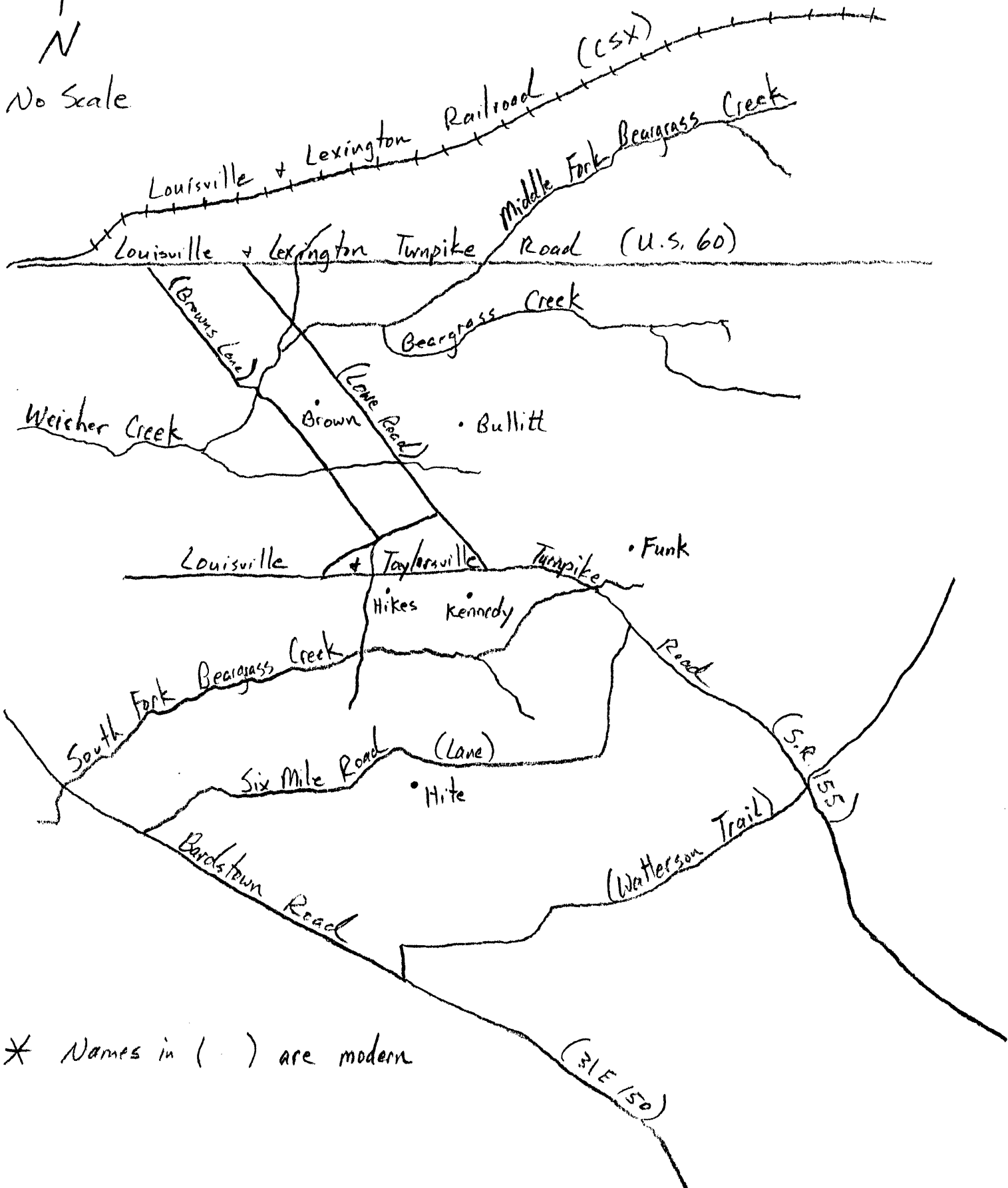
KENNEDY CEMETERY

Located six-tenths of a mile north of Taylorsville Road, .35 miles east of Lowe Road, on the old Wm Kennedy property.

KENNEDAY, Ann		11 Aug 1839	In 58th yr.
[Ed.: Dau of Wm & Catharine Kennedy]			
KENNEDAY, Elizabeth	8 Nov 1804	6 Jan 1833	
KENNEDY, John	1787	1847	
KENNEDY, Frances	1809	1895	His w.
[Ed.: John, son of Wm & Catharine, m.(1) 12 Dec 1822, Elizabeth Funk; m.(2) 7 May 1835, Frances (Thomas) Boyd, wid. of Elijah Boyd.]			
KENNEDY, Joseph	16 Oct 1831	12 Jan 1849	
[Ed.: Son of John & Elizabeth (Funk) Kennedy.]			

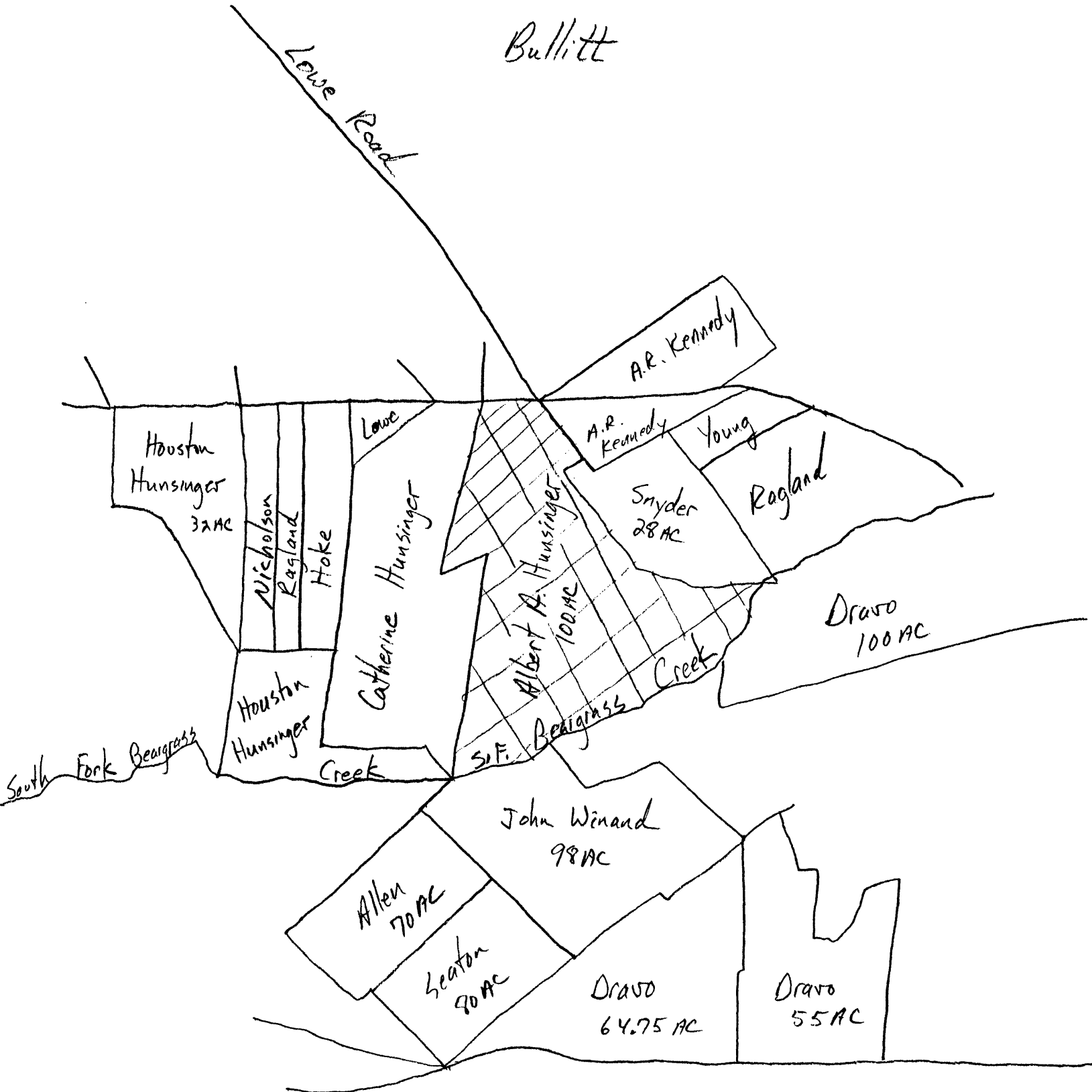


No Scale

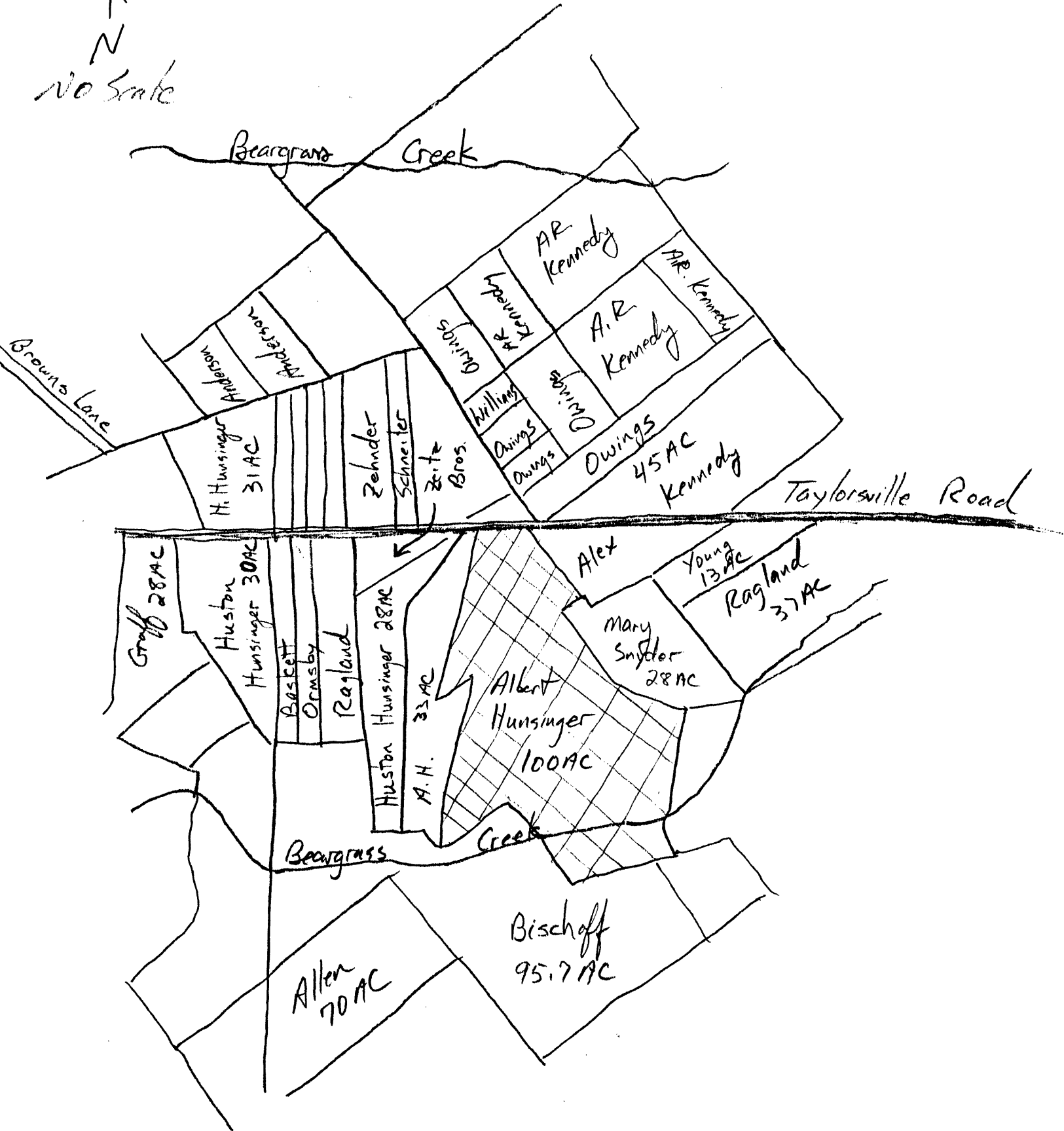


* Names in () are modern

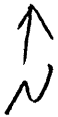
↑
N
No Scale



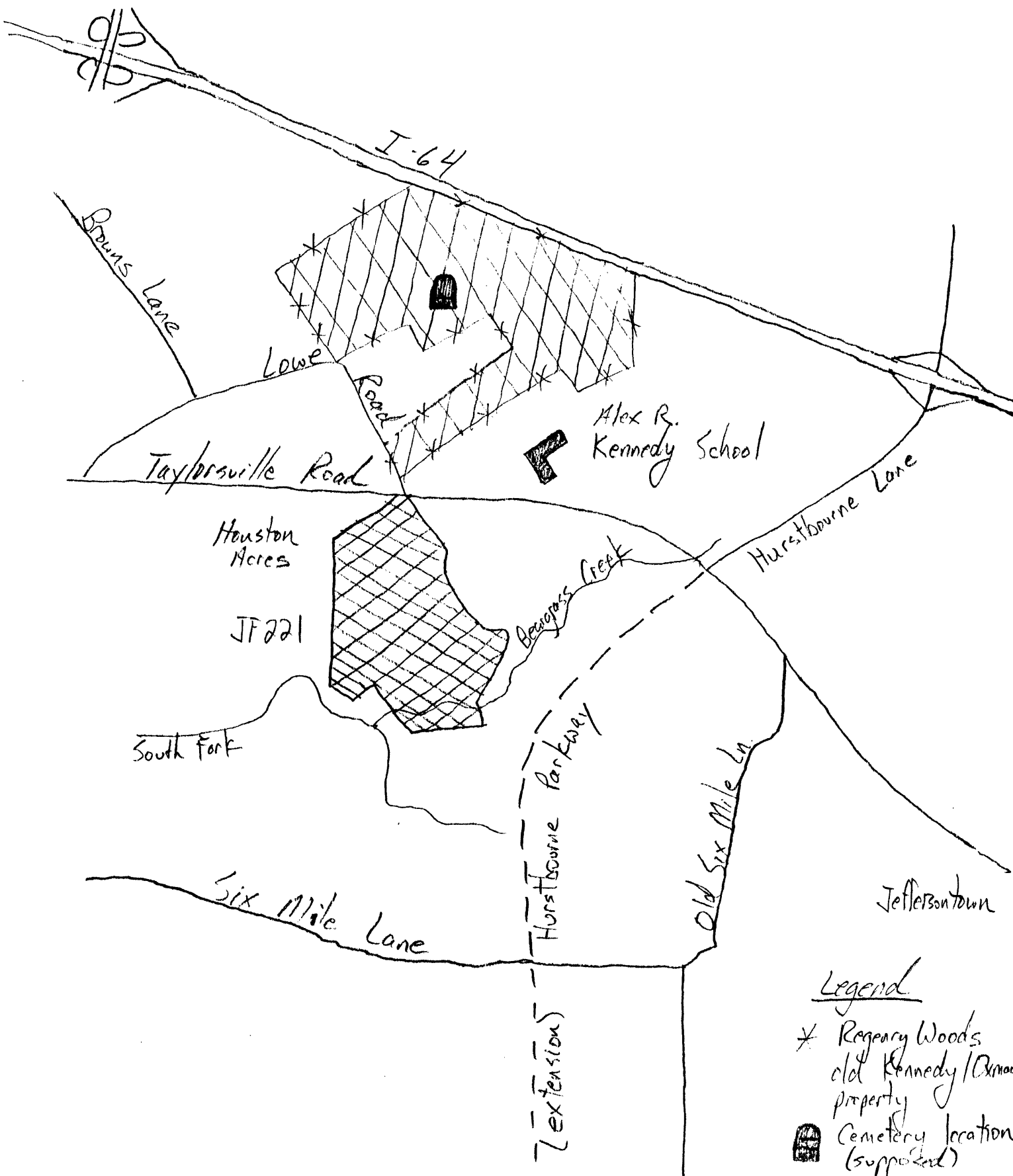
↑
N
No Scale




1990 Map 8/27/90



NO SCALE



Legend

- * Ragany Woods old Kennedy/Ormond property
-  Cemetery location (supposed)

10/23/90

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Name change approval from Hunsinger-Kennedy House to Kennedy-Hunsinger Farm
Jefferson County, KENTUCKY

APPROVED

fa Keeper *Klaus Byer* 11/1/90

8/27/90

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number photos Page 7

Kennedy-Hunsinger Farm, JF221
Jefferson County, Kentucky

For the attached photographs, the information listed below is accurate for each photo. Information peculiar to any one photograph is detailed in the upper left corner of the back of each photo.

Kennedy-Hunsinger Farm, JF221
4334 Taylorsville Road
Jeffersontown Vicinity
Louisville, Jefferson County, Kentucky 40220

Photographer:
Repository:

Daniel G. Carey
Jefferson County Historic
Preservation & Archives Division
April, 1990

Date of photos:

8/27/90

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number photos Page 7--photo key

Kennedy-Hunsinger Farm, JF221
Jefferson County, Kentucky

↑
N
NO SCALE

