

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Buckner, Walker, House

other names/site number Buknore/ Locust Grove/ BB-282

2. Location

street & number 1500 Cane Ridge Road  not for publication

city or town Paris  vicinity

state KY code KY county Bourbon code 017 zip code 40361

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

David L. Morgan 2-7-97  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office  
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Edson H. Beall  
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

3/14/97

Name of Property

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property (Check only one box)

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

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

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

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Domestic- Single Dwelling, Domestic- Secondary- Kitchen, Smokehouse, Ice House, Root Cellar

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Domestic- Single Dwelling, Domestic Secondary- Kitchen, Storage, Not in Use, Not in Use

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Federal

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone, walls Brick, roof Metal, other

Narrative Description

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

(see Continuation Sheet)

Walker Buckner Residence

Name of Property

Bourbon, KY  
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

c. 1841

Significant Dates

c. 1841

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Matthew Kennedy/Lexington

Butler & DeJarnett/ N. Middletown

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(List the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

University of Ky.-Special Collections

Walker Buckner House  
Name of Property

Bourbon, Ky  
County and State

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 9

#### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

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See continuation sheet

#### Verbal Boundary Description

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

#### Boundary Justification

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

### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title C. Thomas Moore

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date 11-29-96

street & number 203 Main/ Box 445 telephone 606-484-3684

city or town Millersburg state KY zip code 40348

#### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Continuation Sheets

#### Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

#### Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

#### Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

#### Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Buknore Farm, Inc.

street & number 1500 Cane Ridge Rd telephone 606-987-2722

city or town Paris state KY zip code 40361

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Walker Buckner House  
Bourbon Co., Ky

**Narrative description**

Buknore(BB-282) is a large two-story rural residence located in Bourbon County, Kentucky, approximately eight miles east of Paris, the county seat. Located on Harrod's Creek, the house is one mile south of the present Cane Ridge Road, Highway 537. The private lane leading to the home is listed on some county maps as the Harrods Creek Spur, and in the nineteenth century, the road continued past Buknore to another Buckner family residence, Eden(BB-266)

The dwelling is constructed of brick set in flemish bond on dry-laid cut stone foundations, with massive dimensions typical of the classic modes of Kentucky's federal era of architecture. The main block of the double-pile house is sixty feet wide and forty feet deep, of five bays, with one-story two-bayed lateral wings measuring over twenty-one feet each. At approximately one hundred and three feet in overall scope, the facade is one of the broadest of any antebellum domestic structure in the commonwealth.

The two-story central core contains the classical elements introduced to the Bluegrass region by architect Matthew Kennedy, and the building bears most of his signature design work: Giant pilasters defining a central pedimented pavillion, a horizontal cornice broken by the middle bay of the house, a blind arch in the pediment containing a lunette, and a second-story triple window centered over an elliptical fanlight doorway. A stone key atop the fanlight contains the date "1841", signifying completion of the house by its owner, Walker Buckner, whose descendants still occupy it.

Windows in the main block of the house are twenty-four-paned upstairs and twenty-eight-paned (16/12) downstairs. The fenestration and core dimensions are similiar to other works by Kennedy: Auvergne(BB-307, a virtual twin to Buknore) nearby on the Paris-Winchester Road, Blythwood(MA-195) in Madison County, and Kennedy's own house at 218 N. Limestone in Lexington.

The arrangement of the interior of the house is more conventional than the striking facade: four large rooms are laid out in standard fashion, two on either side of a broad central stairhall. The hall is divided at its midpoint by a large arch supported on purely Greek Doric columns, which, in earlier Federal houses would have been slender paired colonettes. Chairrails are omitted, except for the rooms in the office wings. Features such as deep baseboards, panelled sliding doors between the double parlors, and ionic columns decorating the mantels give the interior a decidedly Greek Revival look.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Walker Buckner House  
Bourbon Co., Ky

### Narrative description (continued)

In addition to the two parlors to the right of the central hall, there is a dining room and chamber (or third parlor) to the left. Each of these two rooms contain a flat wall cupboard adjacent to the fireplace and doorway exiting to either the office wing or the rear porch of the wing. This porch was originally constructed as an open area passageway to the separate one-story kitchen building at the rear of the main house. At some time after construction of the house (and probably after the Civil War), the porch was enclosed by a combination of frame partitions and a bank of small-paned windows to provide continuous covered egress between the kitchen and dining room. Still extant on the porch are most of the "lamb's tongue" posts which support the original porch roof. Also contained in the porch area is a large well-constructed set of stone stairs to the basement of the main house. Basement rooms conform to the areas of the first floor and were apparently used only for storage, as there is no indication of facilities for cooking.

The left service wing and previously described porch area contain what is probably the primary alteration to the house. The wing itself was built as one room, perhaps not connected by passageway to the main house. In the last quarter of the nineteenth century, the single room was divided into a stairhall and a small bedroom. Although no living space existed directly above, the stairs pierced the small attic in order to reach the side wall of the upper level of the main house, where a door was cut to reach one of the large bedrooms. In the original design of the house, there had been no provision for a service stair, and the alteration provided quick and easy access from the sleeping chambers to the kitchen and yard. A similar alteration was induced at exactly the same point in the neighboring twin house, Auvergne, although at the latter, the remedy was to demolish the wing and build an entirely new replacement, this time with service stairs.

Contrary to the changes on the left wing, the matching right wing has not incurred any modernization to its interior, even for modern utilities. Although its rear porch and support columns have been replaced due to weathering, the interior retains all its original cupboards, chairrail, flooring, and sash. Having never been connected to the main house, and out of the path of foot traffic to most of the service buildings in the yard, this wing has been used mostly for storage. It has only received minimal paint treatment and its woodwork retains the crisp look of newly milled stock, even though it is 150 years old.

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Walker Buckner House  
Bourbon Co., Ky

### **Narrative description (continued)**

Upper rooms of the main house conform to those of the floor below. Four large bedrooms off the main stairhall each contain a centered fireplace on the wall opposite the hallway. Matching cupboards flank the fireplaces in each room. One cupboard in the front left bedroom was likely removed to allow access to the new service stair in the adjacent wing. A modern bath has been inserted in the upstairs hall, enclosing the area of the triple window above the front door. A fully enclosed stair ascends from one of the bedrooms to the unfinished attic.

The separate one-story kitchen is of brick construction and contains three rooms. The room nearest the main house is the one used for cooking and contains a tall, wide cooking fireplace which has evidence of cranes for various cooking pots. Two additional rooms in the building served as living quarters for domestics, and each has a fireplace, several windows, and an external door which opens onto a brick-floored porch. The porch roof is an integral part of the construction, and is supported by five square brick piers. A portion of the porch between two piers has been enclosed as an entryway to the kitchen room. A door in the gable end of the building leads from the cooking area to the boxed-in rear porch of the left wing of the main residence.

Now used only for storage, a brick smokehouse and a brick icehouse complete the group of service buildings closest to the house. A modern one-story brick garage lies beyond the smokehouse, and further out to the left rear of the property is a modern mobile home. A root cellar is to the rear of the kitchen and its mound is a prominent feature of the rear yard.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

Walker Buckner House  
Bourbon Co., Ky

## Statement of Significance

Buknore/Walker Buckner House/BB-282 meets National Register Criterion C by being a significant representative of an important architectural period in the history of Bourbon County, Kentucky. The residence exhibits an excellent design attributed to Matthew Kennedy, Lexington's first self-proclaimed architect, and is an excellent example of the classic phase of Kentucky Federal architecture. Perhaps more importantly, the structure should be seen as one of the delineators of the Federal period of architecture in the state, representing the end of that era. Indeed, the building is often cited as the last house of the Federal form built in the state: "Buknore seems to have sounded the swan's song of Federal architecture in any of its ramifications in Kentucky" (Lancaster, Antebellum Architecture of Kentucky, p119).

Federal architecture in the county from 1800 to 1840 has been examined by the 1985 survey "Historic Architecture of Bourbon County", which was sponsored by Historic Paris-Bourbon County, Inc., in conjunction with the Kentucky Heritage Council. The authors, Walter E. Langsam and William Gus Johnson, documented 880 sites, over 600 of them individually pictured and discussed. Buknore was identified on page 116 as BB-282.

Eighty-four Federal-style houses of brick construction were documented in the survey. Sixty six of these were located in rural areas. These houses were characterized by an unadorned facade of well laid Flemish bond brickwork with jackarches or flat arches over the windows and doors. The sides and rears were usually laid in common bond with a header course every five rows. Foundations were made of dressed fieldstone, finely dressed on the facade of the dwelling, and less so on the sides and rear. The majority of the structures were one and one-half stories, with a central hallway dividing equi-sized rooms. The interiors usually had crafted woodwork such as chairrails and sunburst mantels. (Langsam:17-18)



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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Walker Buckner House  
Bourbon Co., Ky

Section number 8 Page 2

### Statement of significance (continued)

Although many of the rural brick residences surveyed are without elaborate adornment, there are examples of early construction in the county which reflect the growing agricultural prosperity of the larger landholders. The increasing wealth of these property owners led to a refined sense of dwelling space and a desire to go beyond the needs of basic shelter. Artisans, masons, and woodcarvers were employed to embellish residences with such refinements as fanlight doorways, richly carved mantels and wallpresses, and delicately reeded framing. (Lancaster: 106)

Of the 66 rural properties mentioned, 28 possess round or elliptical fanlight doorways--probably the highest concentration of this feature in any one county of the state. Ten of the buildings are double-pile edifices, indicating a larger number of chambers in the main block of each residence. The room plans suggest a more formal arrangement of rooms around a central hallway, perhaps showing the desire to use the dwellings for more lavish methods of entertaining.

Buknore, the nominated property, is an excellent example of the Federal period of architecture in Bourbon county by virtue of its design and execution. Particularly in the presentation of the facade, the structure exhibits a thoughtfully considered symmetrical plan, with balanced composition of structural components. The massiveness of the structure is tempered with twenty-eight-paned windows, and the scale of the elliptical fanlight and triple window above are in harmony with the width and height of the central mass. The lateral wings are in keeping with the broad expanse of the grounds, and the Kennedy elements of vertical pilasters, central pediment, and blind arch are all scaled according to the architect's original ideas of twenty-five years earlier. Probably the last building constructed with any attribution to the architect, the structure is a fitting conclusion to his career and a significant ending to the Federal period in the county and in the state.

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Walker Buckner House  
Bourbon Co., Ky

### Matthew Kennedy

Although little published material has come to light about Matthew Kennedy's personal life, he is known up to the present time for his work in domestic architecture. Born in Virginia in 1781, he had moved to the Bluegrass region by 1796. Initially settling in the Boone's Creek region of Fayette and Clark Counties, he eventually moved into Lexington. According to one author (Whitley-Kentucky Antebellum Portraiture), Kennedy bought and sold town lots in order to make a living and also ran a fire insurance agency, activities akin to the housing trade which may have led to work as a contractor, builder, and architect.

In 1814, after being in partnership with builder John Brand of Lexington, Kennedy was awarded the contract to design and build Kentucky's second statehouse (Birchfield, Kentucky Review). Kennedy's building was to replace the first capitol, which had burned in 1813. Kennedy's structure was completed in 1816 and succumbed to fire itself in 1824. An image of the structure survives in a drawing by architect Gideon Shryock, done from memory many years after the building's demise.

Two events in 1816 occurred which furthered Kennedy's career. He was awarded the contract to build the main building for Transylvania University in Lexington and he completed his own residence two blocks away on North Limestone Street. The Transylvania building was of somewhat elaborate design, incorporating a lunette in a broad central pediment over three full stories, various combinations of round, flat, palladian, and triple windows, and all topped with a baroque cupula surmounted by an elaborate vane and finial (Lancaster: ABAK, p129). Kennedy's residence adopted some of the design features of the Transylvania edifice and the building became the prototype for a whole series of dwellings, many still extant in the Bluegrass region, such as Buknore and the other Bourbon county example, Auvergne (see appendix).

Despite his apparent lack of formal education in architecture, Matthew Kennedy, by the age of 33, was attaining a reputation for solid design work in a graceful, appealing style. His public commissions apparently gained him a favorable reputation with the local gentry, and his design for a two-story residence seems to embody one person's interpretation of the regional Federal style, while incorporating the trends in national architecture of the period. In a region notably void of many recognized architects during the first half of the nineteenth century, Kennedy distinguished himself by delineating a distinctive design plan readily associated with his name.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Walker Buckner House  
Bourbon Co., Ky

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### Matthew Kennedy (continued)

Kennedy continued his design and construction trades unabated for many years, as dwellings of his distinctive style continued to appear on the local landscape throughout the 1820's and 1830's. His design for the Transylvania Medical Hall at Market and Church Streets in Lexington was actualized in 1827 and the building survived a number of uses until 1954. The Medical Hall incorporated what had become Kennedy's trademark: a two story brick building with giant pilasters separating the five bays of the facade. The two innermost pilasters would embrace a central roof pediment and the pediment would encase a blind arch and a lunette. The pediment sat above a triple window on the second floor and a semicircular fanlight doorway on the first.

None of Kennedy's public structures survive except for one of the service wings of the main building at Transylvania. It now serves as the office of the Blue Grass Trust for Historic Preservation. Kennedy continued to live and work in Lexington until he moved with his wife to Louisville in 1840. He died there in 1853. (Mastin: HL-1/25/70)

Whether Kennedy actively participated in the actual architectural renderings and/or construction of some of the buildings attributed to him may be a question never answered. It is known that Bourbon County builders Butler and DeJarnett of North Middletown were employed in at least some construction activity of Auvergne and Buknore. But whether Matthew Kennedy was duly compensated for his design ideas on the buildings, or whether visitors to earlier Kennedy structures merely copied his ideas is not known.

Nevertheless, Kennedy's distinctive designs remain his legacy. Despite minor variations such as hip-versus-gabled roofs and lateral-versus-rear wings, his concept of the two story residential facade organized around a central pediment with lunette over four brick pilasters rising to a broken cornice is the signature style of the classical phase of Federal architecture in the state. For a quarter century, from 1816 to 1841, the combination of his design elements varied only slightly, and the remaining twelve or so examples of his work represent the unmistakable signature of one man.

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Continuation Sheet**

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Walker Buckner House  
Bourbon Co., Ky

**Structures designed by and/or attributed to Matthew Kennedy**

building	County	date	site number
Buknore	Bourbon	1841	BB-282
Auvergne	Bourbon	1837	BB-307
Kennedy House	Fayette	1816	
Grassland	Fayette	1823	
Blythewood	Madison	1840	MA-195
Bronston House	Madison	1830	MANW-23
Brighton	Madison	1832	MAR-68
Samuel Wallace House	Woodford	1825	
Elkwood-McDowell House	Woodford	1835	
Teater House	Garrard	1830	GD-4
Gov. Morehead House	Franklin	1830's	
Roseland Academy	Nelson	1830's	
2nd Kentucky capitol	Franklin	1814-16	burned 1824
Transylvania-main bldg	Fayette	1816	burned 1829
Transylvania-Medical hall	Fayette	1827	demolished 1954
The Meadows	Fayette	1830's	demolished 1960

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Walker Buckner House  
Bourbon Co., Ky

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## Bibliography

Historic Architecture of Bourbon County, Kentucky, by Walter E. Lansam and William Gus Johnson.

Published by Historic Paris-Bourbon County, Inc., in conjunction with the Kentucky Heritage Council, 1985. See esp. pp. 20-21, 116-17, 182-23.

The Blue Grass of Kentucky, by Richard S. DeCamp. Published by Icarus Press, 1985. pp. 78-79.

Kentucky Antebellum Portraiture by Edna Talbott Whitley. Published by National Society of Colonial Dames, 1956.

Kentucky Illustrated-the First Hundred Years by Martin F. Schmidt. Published by University Press of Kentucky, 1992. p. 118.

Madison County Rediscovered: Selected Historic Architecture by Lavinia H. Kubiak. Published by Madison County Historic Society and the Kentucky Heritage Council, 1988. pp. 96, 170, 192.

Antebellum Houses of the Bluegrass by Clay Lancaster. Published by the University of Kentucky Press, 1961. p. 71.

Antebellum Architecture of Kentucky by Clay Lancaster. Published by the University Press of Kentucky, 1991. See esp. pp. 168-76.

Architecture of the Old South- Kentucky and Tennessee by Mills Lane. Published by the Beehive Foundation, Savannah, 1993. pp. 92-97

Vestiges of the Venerable City by Clay Lancaster. Published by the Lexington-Fayette County Historic Commission, 1978. p. 42.

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Walker Buckner House  
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### Bibliography (cont.)

Architecture in Old Kentucky by Rexford Newcomb. Published by University of Illinois Press, 1953. See Plate 35.

A Corner in Celebrities by Alice E. Trabue. Published by George G. Fetter Co., Louisville, 1922.

A History of the Profession of Architecture in Kentucky By William B. Scott, Jr. Published by the Kentucky State Board of Examiners and Registration of Architects, 1987. pp. 4-6.

Lexington Herald-Leader. Article by Bettye Lee Mastin concerning Matthew Kennedy's residence in Lexington, January 25, 1970, p. 34.

The Kentucky Review, volume VIII:3, pp 76-80. Article by Jim Birchfield, "The Architect of Kentucky's Second Capitol".

Historical Sketches of Christ Church, Louisville, by James Craik. Published by J.P. Morton Co., Louisville, 1862.

Discussions with Mrs. Jane Halley Ireland and Mr. Samuel Halley, both of Lexington, descendants of Matthew Kennedy, August-September, 1996.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Walker Buckner House  
Bourbon Co., Ky

Section number 10 Page 1

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## Verbal boundary description

The boundary of the nominated property is a rectangle encompassing approximately nine acres surrounding Buknore, the Walker Buckner residence, the principal domicile of the farm of several hundred acres designated as parcels 9 and 10 on Bourbon County PVA map number 37. The area of the nominated property is delineated by a portion of Harrods Creek and by stone, wood, and wire fencing, and contains the two-story residence, a one-story kitchen, smokehouse, ice house, and root cellar. Also on the grounds are two twentieth century buildings: a mobile home for farm employees and a modern garage.

## Boundary justification

The area selected represents the domestic and service areas of a significant nineteenth century rural homestead and contains the residence itself along with ancillary structures necessary for self-sufficient existence on a large remote farm of the nineteenth century.

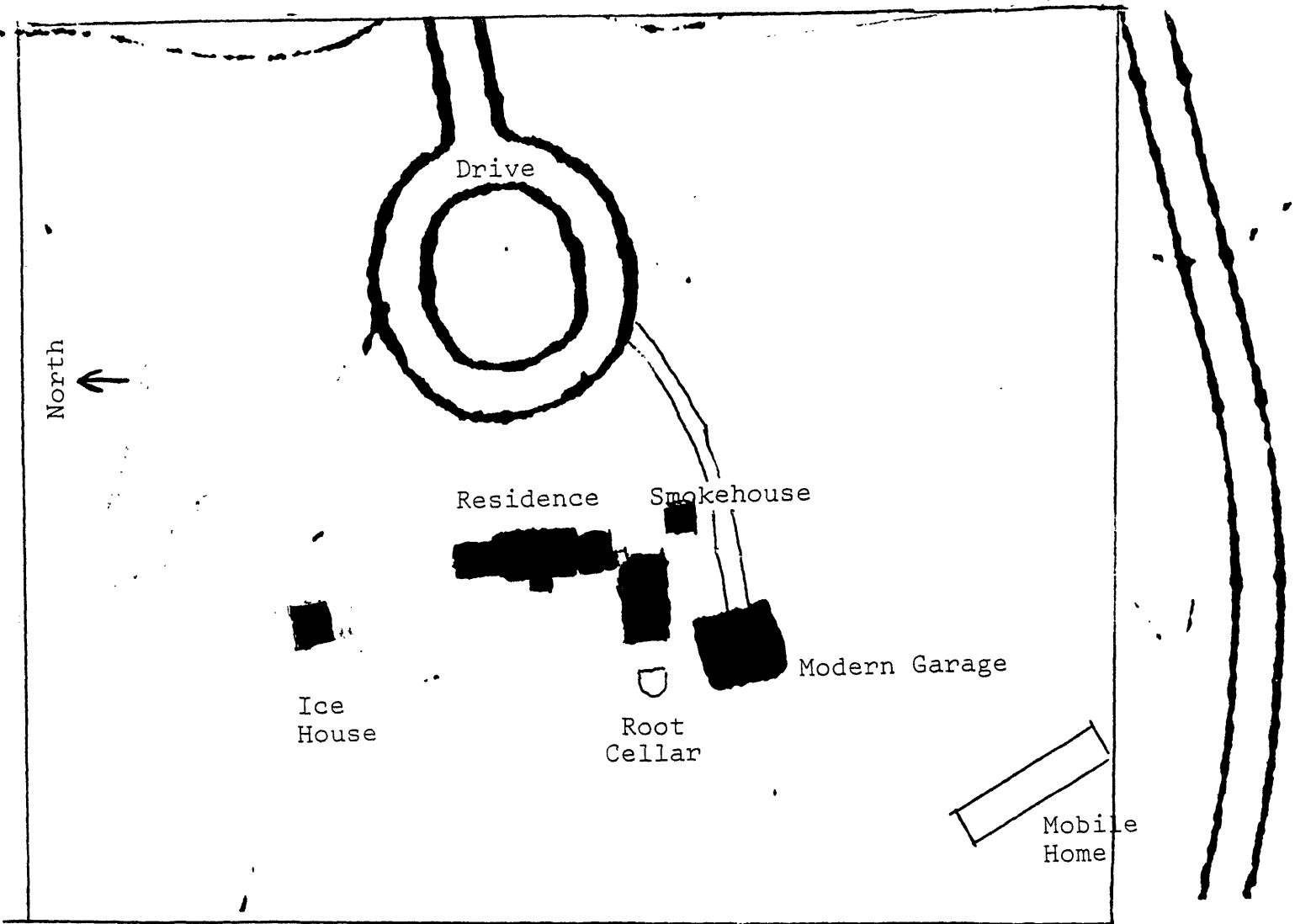
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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Maps

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Walker Buckner House  
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1" = 100'