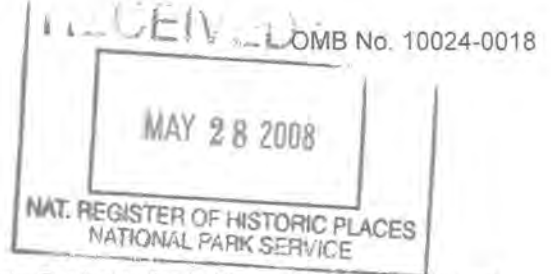


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

655



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determination for individual properties and districts. See instruction 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 Woodford-Fishback-Venable Farm

other names/site number Possumtrot, CK-63

2. Location

street & number 5696 Combs Ferry Road (CR 3371) [N/A] not for publication

city or town Winchester [N/A] vicinity

state Kentucky code KY county Clark code 049 zip code 40391

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.)

Donna M. Neary
Signature of certifying official/Title Donna M. Neary, SHPO

05/23/2008
Date

Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office
State or 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
 - See continuation sheet.
- other, explain
 - See continuation sheet.

[Signature]
Signature of the Keeper

7/2/2008
Date of Action

Woodford-Fishback-Venable Farm
Name of Property

Clark, Kentucky
County/State

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 count previously listed resources.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
8	12	buildings
3	0	sites
4	3	structures
0	0	objects
15	15	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.

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Function (Enter categories from instructions)

- Domestic/single dwelling
- Agriculture/animal facility
- Agriculture/agricultural outbuilding
- Agriculture/processing and storage

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

- Domestic/single dwelling
- Agriculture/animal facility
- Agriculture/agricultural outbuilding
- Agriculture/processing and storage

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

- Greek Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation Limestone
- walls Steel siding
- roof Standing seam metal
- other Wood porch, wood window and door frames, brick chimneys

Narrative Description

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

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Woodford-Fishback-Venable Farm
Clark County, Kentucky

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NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION:

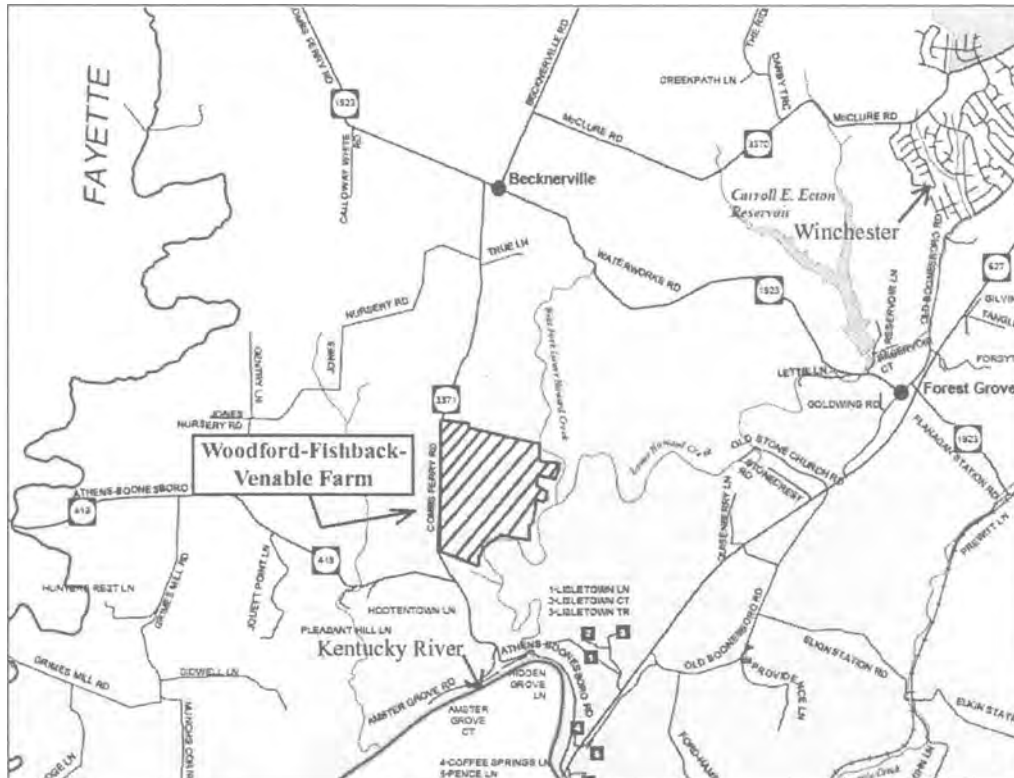


Plate 1. Clark County Roadmap showing Woodford-Fishback-Venable Farm within its surroundings.

The Woodford-Fishback-Venable Farm is a highly complete rural agricultural complex consisting of buildings, sites, and structures that were constructed between the early-nineteenth century and the present day. Located approximately 7 miles southwest of Winchester's city-center, the farm is situated in a rural region of Clark County comprised of functioning diversified farms (Plate 1). The property consists of 296.84 acres situated between the east side of Combs Ferry Road (CR 3371) and the west bank of Lower Howard's Creek. A large majority of the acreage is devoted to cattle pasture, some revolving tobacco and cover crop fields, and a small area for domestic purposes. Historic resources include the main dwelling, log chicken house, slave house ruins, sled barn/former distillery warehouse, tenant house, two tobacco barns, mule barn, cow barn, meat house, calf feeders, burial ground, and a quarry. The Woodford-Fishback-Venable Farm also maintains approximately 2 miles of historic dry-laid rock fences. There are a total of 30 resources on the property, including 15 contributing buildings, sites, and structures and 15 non-contributing buildings and structures. The cultural resources and landscape patterns present on the Woodford-Fishback-Venable Farm were created and maintained by the continuous use of the land for agriculture. The farm is an excellent example of how patterns associated with traditional diversified agriculture were adapted to the natural landscape.

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The Woodford-Fishback-Venable Farm is situated in the southeastern corner of the Inner Bluegrass region of Kentucky, an area settled in close proximity to the Kentucky River and its tributaries. Although the Lower Howard's Creek valley was the location of a major industrial corridor in the late-eighteenth and early-nineteenth centuries, the area has largely remained rural with an agricultural economy. The success of the area has continued through maintenance of its water sources, soil fertility, and access to the urban centers of Lexington and Winchester. Historic agricultural pursuits like raising blooded livestock and burley tobacco have persisted to the present day. The natural features of the Woodford-Fishback-Venable Farm typify the Inner Bluegrass region of Kentucky in which it lies: its cultivated fields, open and savannah woodland pastures, clusters of agricultural and domestic complexes, dry-laid rock fences, and isolated tobacco barns.

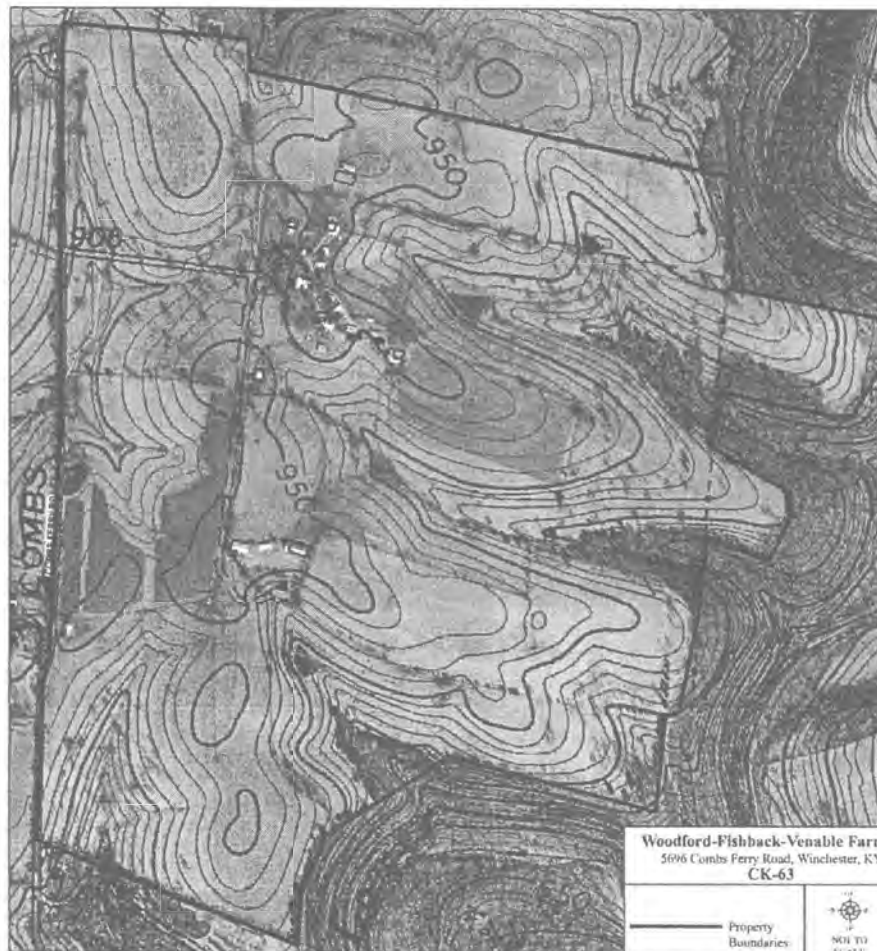


Plate 2. Clark County GIS 2007 Aerial Map with USGS Ford, KY
Quadrangle overlay.

Setting

The Woodford-Fishback-Venable Farm's picturesque topography ranges from level uplands and rolling hills to the steep valley walls of Lower Howard's Creek that exhibit areas of exposed limestone. This distinctive landscape, described by Dr. Mary E. Wharton in *Bluegrass Land and Life* as the

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Kentucky River Tributary, is more rugged than the undulating Bluegrass Plain and less extreme than the 400 feet palisades of the Kentucky River Gorge.

The Woodford-Fishback-Venable Farm largely consists of three parallel hills running east-west on the property, upon which the domestic and agricultural clusters are situated. The hills are separated by steep valleys with a maximum elevation difference of 100 feet between ridge tops and valleys (**Plate 2**). The steepest elevations fall at the ravines of Lower Howard's Creek. The majority of domestic and agricultural resources occupy the center hill. The west-facing main dwelling is set back approximately 1000 feet from Combs Ferry Road and accessed by a long processional drive. The driveway is flanked by open pasture and savannah woodland pasture (**Plates 3-4**). The domestic yard is enclosed on three sides by a dry-laid rock fence with three round mortared rock piers at its entrance (**Plate 5**). This domestic yard rock fence and piers were constructed in the 1960s. Mature trees grace the front yard and a stone "stile block," once used to mount horses, is situated several yards from the front door.



Plate 3. Pasture south of driveway, looking west from domestic yard.



Plate 4. Pastures south and north of driveway, looking northwest from domestic yard.

The landscape patterns, including the domestic and agricultural clusters, internal circulation networks, boundary demarcations, and land usages still retain the character of a diversified farm. The domestic and agricultural buildings are located to the side and rear of the house. Domestic buildings and structures situated closest to the main dwelling include the sled barn, garage, log chicken house, slave house ruins and meathouse. Most agricultural buildings are located a short distance from the main dwelling except for the tobacco complex to the south that includes two hay barns/pavilions, tobacco barn and tenant house. A second later tenant house is also located in this general vicinity. All the clusters are linked together by interior circulation routes. Land usages are separated and defined by natural terrain and wire and rock fences. Property lines and fence lines are also dictated by topography. Many of these property lines and fence rows are still maintained, though in areas of change, sometimes just the tree lines remain.

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Plate 5. Entrance of domestic yard showing main dwelling, rock fence, and piers.

Natural Resources

The Woodford-Fishback-Venable Farm, more than just a collection of buildings, is a rural historic landscape that displays a clear relationship between the built and natural environments. The distinct characteristics of its water, geology, soil, topography, and vegetation have combined to create prime farmland suitable for agricultural pursuits.

Geology

The geology of the Inner Bluegrass region consists of an outcropping of limestone rock formations surfaced by shales of the Cynthiana Formation that developed 400 million years ago during the Middle and Upper Ordovician Periods.¹ The uplifted landmass of the Bluegrass is situated on the Jessamine Dome of the Cincinnati Arch; the primary ridge between northwest Alabama and Lake Erie.² The varying types of limestone bedrock that create the undulating terrain of the Inner Bluegrass region are referred to as the Lexington Limestones. Colors range between gray, blue, gold, and brown.³ The dissolving properties of the Lexington Limestones create the deep and fertile soils in the Inner Bluegrass. Magnificent palisades of exposed limestone flank the Kentucky River and its draining tributaries. The Lower Howard's Creek also exhibits cliffs like this.

Kentucky limestone was used by early settlers as a building material. In areas where the rock was exposed and easily retrieved, it was quarried and used for houses (walls, foundations, and chimneys), rock fences, roadways, culverts, and bridge abutments. The Woodford-Fishback-Venable Farm contains a quarry adjacent to Combs Ferry Road that is shown on a 1926 Geological survey map of Clark County.⁴ Often quarries which provided material for road-fronting rock fences or road improvements

¹ Richard Ulack, Karl Raitz and Gyula Pauer, editors, *Atlas of Kentucky*. Lexington: The University Press of Kentucky, 1998, 19.

² Mary E. Wharton and Roger W. Barbour. *Bluegrass Land and Life*. Lexington: The University Press of Kentucky, 1991, 6.

³ Carolyn Murray Wooley and Karl Raitz. *Rock Fences of the Bluegrass*. Lexington, Ky.: University Press of Kentucky, 1992, 11.

⁴ Coleman D. Hunter, Map of *Clark County, Kentucky*. Frankfort, KY: *Kentucky Geological Survey*, 1926.

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were conveniently located adjacent to the roadways.⁵ It is possible that the quarry provided limestone used in the rock fence and foundation construction on the property, but stone could have also been gathered from the fields or excavated from the valley walls of Lower Howard's Creek. Rock fences on the Woodford-Fishback-Venable Farm have been used to delineate fields, property lines, and domestic spaces.

Water

The Inner Bluegrass has fewer surface streams than other areas with comparable rainfall, making the water-accessible Woodford-Fishback-Venable Farm a prime location for agricultural endeavors.⁶ The lack of surface streams is largely attributed to Kentucky's water-soluble limestone that dissolves to form sinkholes and underground springs.⁷ The Lower Howard's Creek, flowing along the southern and eastern boundary of the Woodford-Fishback-Venable Farm is one of the eight major tributaries of the Kentucky River and one of the few that flows year round. Its headwaters begin in south Winchester and flow south for 6 miles to the Kentucky River. Lower Howard's Creek maintains a watershed encompassing an area of 19.3 square miles.⁸ Being a part of the Kentucky River Tributary landscape, elevations along the Lower Howard's Creek fall steeply enough to provide the water power needed to operate mills.⁹ It is for this reason that it was an ideal location for early milling industries. The West Fork of Lower Howard's Creek also borders the farm on the northeast and east. Jouett Creek, another tributary of the Kentucky River is located across Combs Ferry Road to the west. The headwaters of Trimble Creek originate in the southwest corner of the farm and flow into Lower Howard's Creek.

Sinkholes and underground springs act as natural drains and sometimes provide an additional water source. While sinkholes sometimes gather rainwater and act as natural watering places for animals, water on the Woodford-Fishback-Venable Farm is provided through underground springs that feed strategically placed concrete water tanks built in 1936.¹⁰

Topography & Soil

The Inner Bluegrass topography characterized by limestone geology, surface sinks, and underground streams and caves is referred to as Karst.¹¹ Sinkholes can be dramatic in size, often creating underground caves, and are formed when enough of the underground limestone is dissolved and the ground collapses. On the Woodford Fishback Venable Farm, the sinks moderately slope with grass-covered sides.

The Karst topography was also the catalyst for the siting of the main dwelling, agricultural operations, and roadways. As is the case on the Woodford-Fishback-Venable Farm, hilltops provide

⁵ Murray Wooley and Raitz, 75.

⁶ Helen C. Powell, "Boone Creek Rural Historic District," National Register Nomination, April 1994, Section 7, Page 3.

⁷ Wharton and Barbour, 17.

⁸ State of Kentucky, Watersheds, Available online at <http://eppcmapping.ky.gov/website/watershed/viewer.htm>, Accessed 2-23-08

⁹ Wharton and Barbour, 1991.

¹⁰ John O. Venable & Jane Venable Brown, (current owners of Woodford-Fishback-Venable Farm), telephone interview with author, 2-2-08.

¹¹ Joseph R. Schwendeman, *Geography of Kentucky*, Lexington, KY: Kentucky Images, 1979, 30.

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good home sites because of the benefit of natural drainage and the unlikelihood of flooding. The vantage point from the domestic yard is an uninterrupted view of the surrounding land and properties. Level uplands provide excellent soil for row crops and made harvesting easy. Fields were organized according to their terrain and their intended use – pastures were organized to avoid steep drops (sinkholes) and located close to a water source so cattle could drink.

Excellent drainage conditions and limestone rich in calcium and phosphate enrich the soil, making it especially fertile. A large majority of the farm soil is of the McAfee soil association. The soil consists mostly of the silty clay loam type, but also silty loam. McAfee soils occur on steep slopes around drainage ways and sinkholes and are well drained. This type of soil is mainly used for Kentucky bluegrass pasture (some for seed), hay and tobacco with some grain and silage. Major farm products include thoroughbred horses, beef cattle and burley tobacco. A small amount soil along the southwest and eastern boundaries is of the Ashwood soil association and consists of very rocky silty clay.¹²

Vegetation

In the Inner Bluegrass region, native vegetation likely consisted of dense canebrakes, scattered trees, meadowlands, open forests of oak, ash, walnut, cherry, hickory, and sugar maple, and ample grasslands.¹³ Woodland pastures and savannah woodland pastures are rare surviving examples of past vegetation. Pastureland flanking the main driveway at the Woodford-Fishback-Venable Farm contains rolling meadowlands with scattered hardwood trees. Savannah woodlands are characterized by a ground covered by grasses, with some trees interspersed. Although very few true woodland pastures still exist in the Bluegrass region, field survey for this project identified many stately hardwood trees, largely in pasture settings, on the Woodford-Fishback-Venable Farm.

The wooded areas on the eastern perimeter of the property near Lower Howard's Creek was cleared for milling and other water-focused industries in the late-eighteenth century and is now completely forested with a mature second growth, most of which dates from the late-nineteenth century. Although the original forest community has ceased to exist, the area contains a rich assemblage of native plant species, including some state- and federally-listed species.¹⁴

Combs Ferry Road still retains the feeling and scale you would anticipate in a historic setting. The thoroughfare retains characteristic features of historic roadways in the region that include a worn-down bed with raised, tree-lined edges and rock fence property boundaries. Combs Ferry Road, the western boundary of the property, was an early road providing access inland from the Kentucky River. It still maintains a narrow width and follows an irregular route with hairpin turns.

Contributing Cultural Resources *(See page 7-16 for a table listing all counted resources)*

The main dwelling is two stories, three bays, with a central passage plan and Greek Revival details. The structure has grown in form and plan over its lifespan into its current backwards "F" configuration (**Plate 6-7**). Basement inspection in November 2007 revealed that the earliest part of the house is the north gable end of the main block. It was constructed as a single-pen log structure circa

¹² U.S. Department of Agriculture. Natural Resources Conservation Service, *Web Soil Survey*. Available online at <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/WebSoilSurvey.aspx>, Accessed 11-15-07.

¹³ Wharton and Barbour.28.

¹⁴ "Lower Howard's Creek as Clark County's Community Forest," Kentucky Urban and Forestry Grant Program, Available online at <http://www.lowerhowardscreek.org/Urban%20Forestry.pdf>. Accessed 12-15-07.

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1815. Soon after, another single-pen log structure was built at the south gable end. The two were connected by an open breezeway, creating a dogtrot plan. A variation on the dogtrot name, the house is referred to in Richard S. DeCamp's book *The Bluegrass of Kentucky: A Glimpse at the Charm of Central Kentucky Architecture* as "Possumtrot."

It is believed that the second story of logs was added and the breezeway enclosed around 1850. Around the same time, the windows were widened, the exterior was clad with weatherboard, and the Greek Revival details added to the interior and exterior.



Plate 6. Main dwelling, front (west) façade



Plate 7. Main dwelling, north façade

Between 1850 and 1870 a one-story two-room frame ell was added that served as a dining room and sleeping chambers. Both rooms were heated by a central brick fireplace that ceased being used in the mid-twentieth century. The south side of the ell had an open porch (late 1800s) that was enclosed in the 1950s (Plate 8). A third room was added to the ell in the late-nineteenth century and used as a sleeping chambers and office. This eastern-most section of the ell contains an interior gable-end brick chimney and exterior access to the basement. The last appendage to the main dwelling was a frame kitchen addition built at the turn-of-the-century onto the south side of the ell (Plate 9). The stone and brick chimney served an iron stove.

Presently the exterior is clad in metal siding and the cross gable roof is clad in standing seam metal. The foundation is ashlar-cut limestone. The front façade contains a slightly protruding wood box eave, while the gable ends are flush. The interior gutter system contains modern, round aluminum downspouts. The paired exterior end chimneys are constructed of brick in a Common bond pattern with stone foundations. The chimneys pull away from the wall at corbelled shoulders. The building is accessed by a centrally-located one-story wood Greek Revival portico. The full entablature and cornice is complete with dentils. The porch is supported by paired wood box columns set on square tooled stones. Pilasters flank the door. The porch deck is poured concrete and accessed by a single massive (5 ft. long) piece of Kentucky limestone.

Windows on the front and rear façades are identical to the window and door surrounds on the interior of the main block. They contain tripartite sashes with flat wood surrounds, square architrave

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Plate 8. Main dwelling, south façade



Plate 9. Main dwelling, kitchen addition, south façade

crossettes (or ears), and pilaster-like detail flanking the central window. Most window sashes are double-hung wood and include combinations of nine-over-six with flanking three-over-two, six-over-six flanked by two-over-two, six-over-six, two-over-two and one-over-one. The center window on the second floor of the front façade has been partially filled with vinyl and the kitchen window on the north façade (added in the 1960s) has a three-pane wood louvered sash. All windows contain modern aluminum storms.

Notable interior details include the heavy Greek Revival door surrounds (in the passage and hall) with square architrave crossettes (or ears) and 1' high baseboard molding (**Plates 9-10**). The south gable-end room was the hall and contains more decorative details than the adjacent parlor does, such as interior Greek Revival door surrounds and marbled mantel and baseboards.

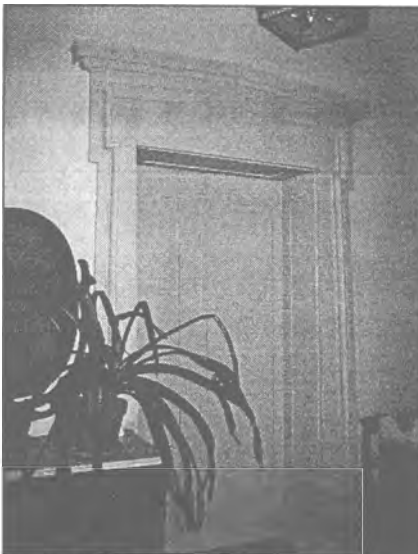


Plate 9. Main dwelling, interior of central passage showing door surround to parlor



Plate 10. Main dwelling, central passage

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Changes made to the house after the farm's Period of Significance (post-1958) include the addition of a louvered window on the north side of the kitchen (mentioned above), exterior aluminum storm windows, and exterior metal cladding. The only change to the footprint of the dwelling includes the addition of a small bathroom on the south side of the ell in 1967. On the interior, several mantels have been removed since the 1960s, including both from the second floor bedrooms and one in the dining room. Several of the room's usages have changed during the last sixty years. The early-twentieth century kitchen on the south side of the ell was partitioned into a bedroom and laundry room in 1955. The rear-most bedroom from the 1850-1870 addition was changed to the main kitchen and remains so today.



Plate 11. Mule shed



Plate 12. Cow barn

Mule Shed

The mule shed is an aisled barn located northwest of the main dwelling in an area used to pen and shelter cattle (**Plate 11**). Today the barn is used to shelter cattle. The area is enclosed by wood 3-plank horse fence, wire fence and rock fence. The timber-frame building is one-and-one-half stories high and three bays wide with a front gable roof clad in standing seam metal. The exterior walls are covered with vertical (circular sawn) boards painted black. The foundation is wood piers. There are three entrances on the both gable ends. The central entrance has paired, hinged, vertical board doors, painted white that access a central aisle. The flanking doors are also white vertical boards, but slide and have openings for light and ventilation. At the half-story is a white vertical board hinged door used to load hay into the barn. According to the owners, the structure was built around 1850 by S.A.B. Woodford. Review of the Clark County Kentucky Census between the years 1850-1880 revealed that the farm had significantly more mules in 1850 than any other year. The barn contains a 54-foot timber that the owners believe was salvaged from a barge on the Kentucky River.

Cow Barn

The cow barn is located north of the main dwelling in an area used to pen and shelter cattle (**Plate 12**). The one-and-one-half-story three-bay timber-frame barn was rebuilt circa 1929 by Virgil Browning. Virgil was the son of Lucy Woodford. Like many buildings on the farm, it is constructed of material salvaged from other buildings. Framing members exhibit hand hewn adze and circular saw marks as well as lap joints and mortise-and-tenon joints. In this case, members from a tobacco barn that collapsed during a storm in 1923 were reused in its construction. The frame is an "H" bent form and is

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approximately 4 bents long. The roof is front gable clad in standing seam metal and the walls consist of vertical wood boards painted black. The frame is supported by a post-in-ground foundation. On the west side is a cattle ramp used to load cattle for transport. It is a central aisle barn with flanking stalls. A loft serves as storage for hay and a hinged door on the front gable end provides access for loading. A remnant of a dry-laid rock fence, running east/west between the Mule Barn and the Cow Barn, terminates at the west wall of the Cow Barn. A one-story shed addition is located on the east side of the barn and serves as a cattle pen. East of the main entrance to the barn is a feed shed located close to the barn for convenience.



Plate 13. Sled barn



Plate 14. Slave house ruins

Sled Barn; William T. Bush & Co. Distillery Warehouse

The Sled Barn is a one-story one-bay timber-frame building that now serves as storage for a collection of sleighs, carriages and other assorted items (Plate 13). Framing members include hand hewn timbers and more recent circular sawn lumber. The interior walls appear to be pit-sawn vertical planks. The front gable roof is clad in standing seam metal. The slightly overhanging eave is boxed on the sides and open on the gable ends. The exterior walls are covered with weatherboard. The foundation is dry-laid stone. A large opening accesses the barn and is flanked by beaded posts and shielded by a shed roof supported by vertical board braces.

According to the owners, the building was originally used to store barrels of whiskey produced at the William T. Bush & Co. Distillery located on the banks of Lower Howard's Creek. The building was originally located in the southwest corner of the front yard, but was moved to its current location after the turn-of-the-century. The owners date the distillery to the mid-nineteenth century when Samuel A.B. Woodford owned the farm. Between 1850 and 1867, William T. Bush operated the Martin Mill on Lower Howard's Creek and lived in the Martin homestead. He also built and operated the distillery and a cooper shop. Interestingly, the 1870 U.S. Federal Census lists a William Bush, aged 61 years, as living on S.A.B. Woodford's farm. He was shown as having a personal worth of \$10,000.

Slave House Ruins

Immediately east of the main dwelling within the domestic yard are ruins of a log saddlebag building that served as a slave house (Plate 14). All that remains is the stone firebox, brick chimney and

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a small portion of the dry-laid stone foundation. The one-and-one-half-story single-pen log structure on the west side of the fireplace contained one window on the south wall and an entrance at the northwest corner.¹⁵ The log pen on the opposite side had windows on both the north and south facades, a closet on the south side of the chimney and a door at the northwest corner. The second pen also had a loft space accessed by interior stairs along the eastern wall. The stone firebox contains back-to-back hearths. Remnants of the stone foundation remain.



Plate 15. Meathouse



Plate 16. Calf creep feeder

Meathouse

Immediately southeast of the main dwelling within the domestic yard is a meathouse that dates from the first decade of the twentieth century (**Plate 15**). The building has a wood plank frame, is one story high, one bay wide, and one pile deep. The pyramidal roof is clad in asphalt shingles and the exterior walls are covered with clapboards. The meathouse has no windows. The slightly overhanging roof exhibits exposed rafter ends. The building sits on a wood pier foundation. It is constructed of very light frame with most of the roof supported by wide vertical boards. The entrance is centered on the north façade.

Calf Creep Feeders

Two identical calf creep feeders are located west and south of the main dwelling within the domestic yard (**Plate 16**). The structures were designed by John O. Venable while a student of the University of Kentucky's Agricultural Engineering program in 1946. The feeders are unique because they are mobile and can be adjusted to feed different size calves. Since their inception, the feeders have been converted to other uses, including a chicken brooder house, sheep shelter, and garden implement storage. The frame structures are clad in circular sawn vertical boards. The shed roof is covered with standing seam metal. The north end has a small hinged door for human access and the south end has a cantilevered overhang for a saltlick. The front façade contains a pressed tin-clad opening that hinges at the top. The door lifts to allow the calves feeding access. The structure sits on long two-by-fours with

¹⁵ John O. Venable and Jane Venable Brown (current owners of Woodford-Fishback-Venable Farm), interviewed by author, Winchester, KY, 11-7-07.

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hooks on one end so the structure can be towed from location to location.



Plate 17. Log chicken house



Plate 18. Tobacco barn

Log Chicken House

The log chicken house is located immediately northeast of the main dwelling within the domestic yard (**Plate 17**). The chicken house is v-notch log constructed and is raised off the ground by rock plinths. The front gable roof is clad in pressed tin. The timbers at the eaves are joined by lap joints. It is approximately ten feet long, five feet wide, and five feet in height, and has projecting cantilevered gable ends. A centered opening is located on the south façade. The logs are sheathed in 1¼ inch boards. The structure has not housed chickens for at least 40 years and it is currently being used to store select salvaged wooden components from other parts of the farm complex. According to the owner, the logs were salvaged from a barge on the Kentucky River and verified by pin holes in which the logs were attached to the barge. Since a barge could not easily travel upstream once it had floated downstream, often barges were dismantled and the wood reused.

Tobacco Barn

East of the house on the center ridge is a tobacco barn built in 1948 (**Plate 18**). Today the barn is used as corn crib and tractor storage. The ventilation openings for drying tobacco are still visible. The timber frame building is three bays wide and six bents deep. The front gable roof is clad in standing seam metal and the exterior is vertical boards painted black. The barn is supported by post-in-ground piers. The north side contains and one-story shed used to shelter cattle. The centered sliding door is painted white and used to access the central aisle. Small hinged doors have been added to the second story so corn can be unloaded into the loft.

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Plate 19. Burial ground

Woodford Family Burial Ground

The burial ground is located immediately south of the shop building and southeast of the main dwelling (Plate 19). Four tombstones are extant, but in a poor state of repair. Three tombstones sit together in a row and include Samuel (Archer Bedford) Woodford 1815-1906, his wife Martha A. Woodford 1823-1878 and their son, L. (Lewis) A. Woodford 1853-1927. Samuel A.B. Woodford purchased the property in 1849-1850 and descendants of the family continued to live there to the present day. Another tombstone is set apart from the others near the rear wall of the shop building. It is the tombstone of an unknown woman, Rebeca J. Logan, born Sept. 25, 1849 and died April 28, 1875. Three cedar trees appear to mark the four corners of the burial ground. It was common burial practice in the nineteenth century to mark graves and cemeteries with cedar trees.



Plate 20. Rock fence at north of property



Plate 21. Rock fence through center of property

Rock Fences

The Woodford-Fishback-Venable Farms retains an approximately two miles of intact dry-laid rock fence on the interior and exterior of the farm (Plate 20-21). The fencing was built during the ownership of Samuel A.B. Woodford between the time he purchased the farm in 1849 and 1880. The Woodford-Fishback-Venable Farm contains approximately 2 miles of various sections of dry-laid rock

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fence. It is likely that the historic rock fence was constructed by S.A.B. Woodford soon after he acquired the property in 1850. The current owners, descendants of S.A.B., believe he utilized the rock collected while clearing the land and had slaves build fences in the winter to keep occupied. In 1881 S.A.B. put the northern and southern halves of the property into trust for his daughters Nancy and Maria. In the deed he states: "I have run a stone fence from east to west ...I give to Nancy what is on the south side and to Mariah what is on the North, making that fence the division line between them." The farm contains an incredible amount of surviving interior rock fences delineating fields. Most of the rock fence is dry-laid, with thin courses and diagonally-laid coping. Some sections contain protruding tie rocks on one side. In the 1960s, John O. Venable constructed the rock fence surrounding the main dwelling on three sides and the circular, mortared piers at the entrance. Except for the aforementioned portion, the remaining rock fences on the property have only required minimal maintenance over the years.



Plate 22. Tenant house



Plate 23. Tobacco barn



Plate 24. Water tank



Plate 25. Quarry

Tenant House

Southeast of the domestic yard, on the southernmost ridge, is a tenant house constructed in 1914 (Plate 22). It is situated in a cluster of agricultural buildings that also include two hay storage pavilions from the twenty-first century and a tobacco barn dating from 1923. The dwelling is one-and-one-half stories tall, four bays wide, and one pile deep. The side gable roof is clad in standing seam metal and the

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once clapboarded walls are now covered with asbestos shingle. The two-cell plan includes a loft accessed by stairs. The front façade contains two wood paneled doors, each flanked by a window. Windows on the main block have two-over-two double-hung wood sashes. On the rear (north) façade is a one-story shed section with six-over-six double-hung sash windows on the east and west sides and access in the north façade. The tenant house is enclosed in its own yard by dry-laid rock fence on the south side and wire fence on the other sides.

Tobacco Barn

Southeast of the domestic yard, on the southernmost ridge is a tobacco barn constructed in 1923 (**Plate 23**). It is situated in a cluster of agricultural buildings that also include two hay storage pavilions from the twenty-first century and a tenant house dating from 1914. It is still used to cure tobacco. The timber frame building is three bays wide and ten bents deep. Ventilation openings for curing tobacco are located on all four facades. The front gable roof is clad in standing seam metal and the exterior is vertical boards painted black. The barn is supported by post-in-ground piers set on square cut limestone piers. The main entrance (west façade) contains paired vertical board hinged doors that access the center aisle.

Water Tanks

There are approximately 5 water tanks on the Woodford-Fishback-Venable Farm, all of which were constructed in 1936 (**Plate 24**). Three tanks are 14 feet in diameter and 2 feet deep, while two are 10 feet in diameter and 2 feet deep. The tanks are spring fed, as well as being connected to the city water system (though only used on occasion). The water tanks are crucial to the success of the farm, providing water for both animals and crops.

Quarry

The quarry is adjacent to Combs Ferry Road (**Plate 25**). Roadside quarries were often a logical source of material for rock fences and early roads. According to the owners, the quarry was opened around 1915 when John J. Fishback conveyed it to the Clark County Road Department to use the rock for paving. A 1926 map of Clark County published by the Geological Survey shows this quarry. Combs Ferry Road was an early route from the Kentucky River inland to Lexington. Combs Ferry Road was named after Samuel Combs, son-in-law to Colonel John Holder. After Holder died in 1798, Samuel Combs obtained the boat yard and ferry and maintained the operation.

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Evaluation of Integrity

Considering the large size of the property (296.84 acres) and the high number of cultural resources included within its boundaries, the Woodford-Fishback-Venable Farm was evaluated as an historic district. Moreover, a substantial density and observable continuity of buildings and landscape patterns survive. The evaluation of integrity, necessary to assign contributing or non-contributing status, took into account the fundamental nature of agriculture, which depends upon evolution of processes and supporting buildings. Although no building or landscape exists exactly as it did in history, contributing status was assigned to features that retain their recognizable historic associations and feeling.¹⁶

Criteria used to determine *Contributing* status

- Contributing buildings, sites, or structures must be at least 50 years old;
- Individual historic resources must retain significant aspects of their integrity of **location** and **setting** as to demonstrate a strong **association** with the natural features of the region and the historic development of the farm;
- Individual resources should retain significant aspects of their historic **materials** and **workmanship** with minimal alterations. Most resources on the farm have some degree of alteration to their materials; however, modest changes to materials do not necessarily prevent the buildings from expressing their basic character, nor do those changes greatly detract from their contribution to the overall identity of the farm.
- Individual resources should retain their original **design** intent with minimal alterations. Resources that have undergone a minor degree of change, such as replacement siding, but that have retained most of their character defining features, such as original rooflines, fenestration, chimneys, and porch elements, are considered to be contributing.
- Individual resources should convey a strong sense of integrity of **feeling** through their collective historic character and their architectural continuity.

Criteria used to determine *Non-Contributing* status

- The building, site, or structure was less than 50 years old;
- Major unsympathetic alterations took place
- Or a combination of alterations that were inconsistent with the overall historic character of the farm.

There are a total of 30 buildings, structures, and sites surveyed within the district.

15 Contributing

15 Non-contributing

¹⁶ National Park Service, National Register Bulletin #30, *Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Rural Historic Landscapes*. (Washington, D.C.: The National Park Service, [1989] 1999), 22-23.

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Site Plan Key	Resource No.	Function	Evaluation	Method/Material	Alterations	Construction Date
0	CK-63	Main Dwelling	C	Log, WF; Vinyl	1	1800-1824
1	CK-63.1	Mule Shed	C	TF; VB	2	c. 1850
2	CK-63.2	Cow Barn	C	TF, WF; VB	2	c. 1929
3	CK-63.3	Horse Barn	NC	WF; VB	1	c. 1965
4	CK-63.4	Sled Barn	C	BF; WB	1	c. 1850
5	CK-63.5	Slave House Ruins	C	N/A	3	1825-1849
6	CK-63.6	Meathouse	C	BF; WB	1	c. 1907
7	CK-63.7	Storage Building #2	NC	WF; VB	1	c. 1980
8	CK-63.8	2 Calf Creep Feeders	C	WF; VB	1	c. 1946
9	CK-63.9	Garage	NC	WF; VB	1	c. 1960; 1980
10	CK-63.10	Chicken House	C	Log, V-notch	1	1825-1849
11	CK-63.11	Run-in Cattle Sheds	NC	WF, Lap joint	1	c. 1960
12	CK-63.12	Equipment Shed	NC	WF; SS	1	c. 1970
13	CK-63.13	Tobacco Barn	C	TF; VB	2	c. 1948
14	CK-63.14	Machine Shed	NC	WF; CM	1	c. 1965
15	CK-63.15	Shop Building	NC	WF; VB	1	c. 1970
16	CK-63.16	Burial Ground	C	N/A	2	c. 1875
17	CK-63.17	Rock Fences	C	N/A	2	1850, c. 1960
18	CK-63.18	Corn Crib	NC	WF; VB, HB	1	1997
19	CK-63.19	Hay Barn	NC	WF; VB	1	c. 1960
20	CK-63.20	Bull Barn	NC	WF; VB	1	c. 1962
21	CK-63.21	Tenant House	NC	WF, AS	1	c. 1965
22	CK-63.22	Tenant House	C	WF, AS	1	1914
23	CK-63.23	Tobacco Barn	C	TF, VB	1	1923
24	CK-63.24	Hay Pavilion	NC	MF, WF	1	c. 1990
25	CK-63.25	Hay Pavilion (Round)	NC	WF	1	2002
26	CK-63.26	Machine Pavilion	NC	WF	1	c. 1985
27	CK-63.27	Feed Sheds	NC	WF; CM, VB	1	1950-1974
28	CK-63.28	5 Water Tanks	C	PC	1	1936
29	CK-63.29	Quarry	C	N/A	1	1825-1849

TABLE	KEY
C	Contributing
NC	Non-Contributing
1	Little or No Alteration
2	Moderate Alteration
3	Major Alterations
4	New Construction

TABLE	KEY
WF	Wood Frame
TF	Timber Frame
BF	Box Frame
MF	Metal Frame
PC	Poured Concrete
VB	Vertical Board
HB	Horizontal Board
WB	Weatherboard
SS	Standing Seam Metal
CM	Corrugated Metal
AS	Asbestos Shingles

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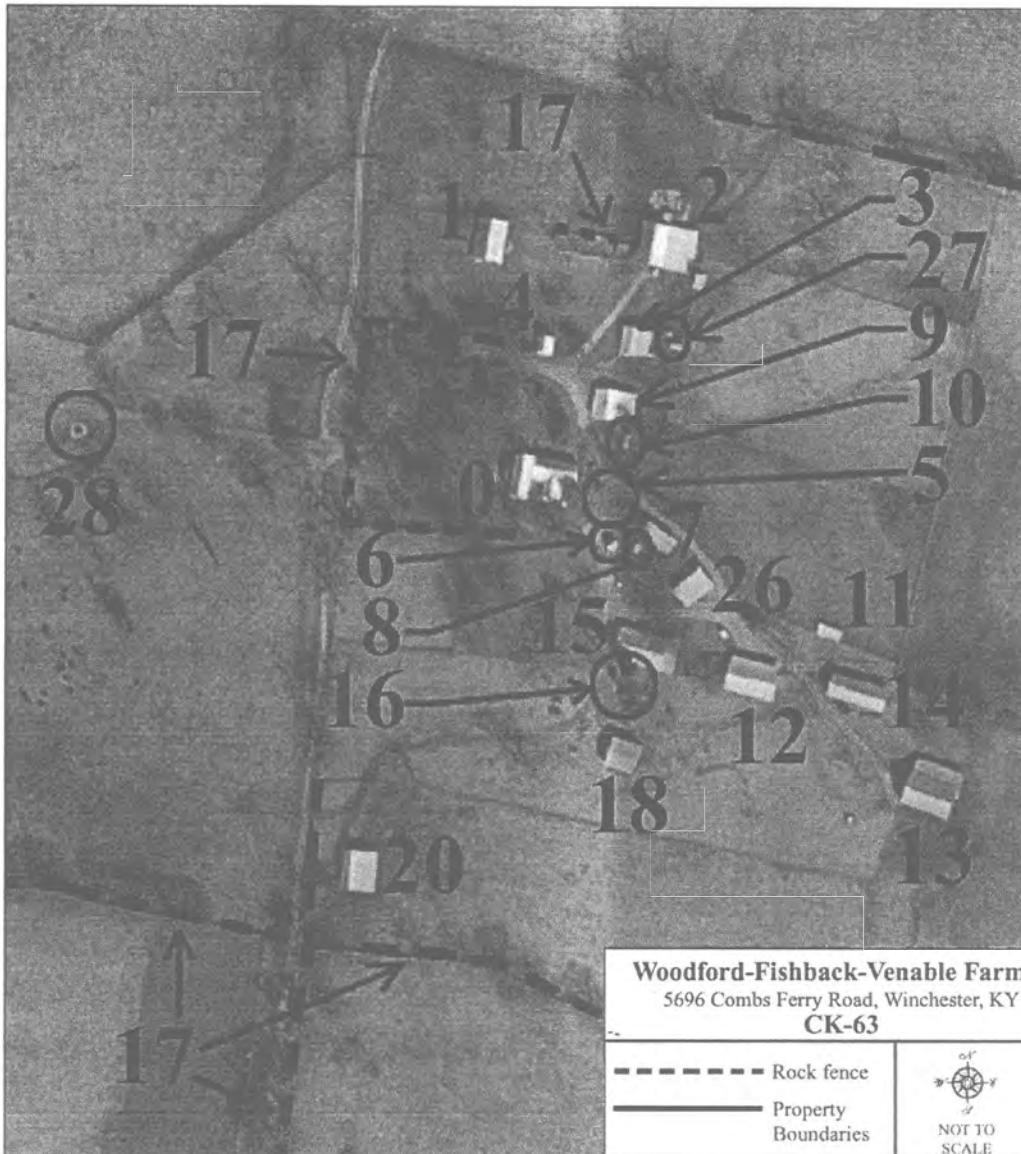


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Woodford-Fishback-Venable Farm
Name of Property

Clark, Kentucky
County/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.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture

Periods of Significance

1800-1960

Significant Dates

c. 1815; 1850-1880

Significant Person(s)

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Mule shed builder: Woodford, S.A.B.

Cow barn builder: Browning, Virgil

Calf creep feeder designer/builder: Venable, John O.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite 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:

Kentucky Heritage Council

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Woodford-Fishback-Venable Farm meets the National Register Criterion A for its contribution to our understanding of diversified agricultural practices in the Inner Bluegrass region of Clark County between 1850 and 1960. It is locally significant and has been evaluated within the historic context "Agriculture in Clark County, Kentucky, 1800-1960." Its agricultural activity has largely centered on cattle, tobacco, and cereal grains and as such, the Woodford-Fishback-Venable Farm is an important manifestation of local agricultural traditions. The Woodford-Fishback-Venable Farm embodies the distinctive and largely-intact characteristics of a diversified farm that has been in continuous operation since the nineteenth century. The historic buildings, structures, sites, objects, and landscape patterns within its boundaries coincide with major shifts in agricultural inclinations as they occurred in central Kentucky and particularly in the higher elevations above the Kentucky River valley of Clark County. The main dwelling is an interesting architectural analogue to the farm's incremental and evolutionary growth. The residence started as an early-nineteenth century settlement-era log structure, grew into a dogtrot, and eventually became a two-story, Greek Revival I-house. It testifies to the farm's historic identity and continuing viability. The log chicken house is a distinct architectural example of a log constructed outbuilding from the early-nineteenth century. In addition, most of the outbuildings, including the sled barn/distillery warehouse (1850), mule shed (1850), meathouse (1907), tenant house (1914), tobacco barn (1923), calf creep feeders (1940) are cultural artifacts of change and continuity in Clark County's agricultural economy. The buildings and structures of the agricultural complex are both typical of traditional and popular agricultural archetypes and construction methodologies of Kentucky.

HISTORIC CONTEXT: Agriculture in Clark County, Kentucky, 1800-1960

Agriculture within the Clark County has been a diversified system based on a mixture of crops and livestock since the settlement period. Federal agricultural census data reveal that the Inner Bluegrass region, and particularly the most centralized counties in the state, led Kentucky in agricultural productivity for most of the nineteenth century. Those central counties, of which Clark County is a part, were largely successful as a result of the characteristically fertile silty loam soil.¹⁷ The well-drained limestone-rich soil was well suited for raising bountiful crops and lush pastures.

Although most early farms in Clark County were subsistence operations, farmers with access to overland local markets in Lexington and Winchester, or with access to distant markets via the Kentucky River, produced crops for export. Large farms raised a variety of crops and livestock that included Indian corn, hemp, rye, tobacco, wheat, beef cattle, hogs, sheep and horses.¹⁸ Although hemp was a cash crop from early on, harvesting was a labor-intensive process, better suited for larger farms with numerous slaves or laborers.¹⁹ Tobacco was also grown in the early-nineteenth century, but was a darker strain brought from Virginia that was fire- or air-cured and used for chewing tobacco, snuff and cigars.

Farmers in the antebellum period generally continued the same crop routine as in earlier decades.

¹⁷ Christine Amos. "The Bluegrass Cultural Landscape." Frankfort, KY: Kentucky Heritage Council, 1988, 73.

¹⁸ William Henry Perrin, ed. *History of Fayette County, Kentucky*. Chicago: O.L. Baskin and Co., 1882, 116-119.

¹⁹ Harrison and Klotter, 135.

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Improvements made to the road system provided access to warehouses and markets where goods were exported to neighboring states. To satisfy the market, farmers increased the number of acres under cultivation.

The cattle industry in Clark County was solidified in the first half of the nineteenth century.²⁰ The Patton brothers, and brother-in-law James Gay, are credited with bringing cattle breeds to Clark County from Virginia as early as 1790.²¹ The first blooded cattle imported directly from England arrived in 1817.²² The Short-horn and Hereford breeds were early favorites and were primarily raised for their beef.

Dr. Samuel D. Martin was a respected physician and farmer during the antebellum period and wrote extensively on agriculture in western Clark County. He raised crops of tobacco, corn and bluegrass, but was most noted for his prized cattle and hogs. He kept detailed breeding records of bulls and cows that first arrived in Kentucky from Britain in 1817 and tracked their offspring for decades after.²³ Martin believed that the success of the cattle industry was largely a response to the natural grazing properties of the Inner Bluegrass land. The underlying limestone, deep fertile soil, and temperate climate allowed grasses to continually grow throughout the year, so horses and livestock had a constant food supply.

Detailed agricultural census data began being collected in 1840 and specifies productivity and production outputs within Kentucky and its counties. The variety of Clark County's agricultural output included livestock, cereal grains, and various other crops. In 1840, a great number of swine and sheep were being raised in Clark County, with smaller quantities of cattle, mules and horses. Top cereal grain crops included Indian corn, rye, oats, and wheat. In this year, Kentucky was the nation's largest producer of rye, and Clark County was the leading producer in the state, with approximately 146,511 bushels.²⁴ Other pursuits included wool, wax, potatoes, hay, hemp, flax, tobacco, and sugar.

The two decades between 1850 and 1870 was an incredibly productive period for Clark County.²⁵ Clark County ranked in the top ten of counties in the state with the most improved acreage. The average farm size in Clark County in 1850 was 193 acres. Hemp was Kentucky's primary cash crop, and 72% was grown in the Bluegrass region. Although labor-intensive to produce, the high return enabled farmers to maintain smaller acreages. While hemp continued to thrive as a cash crop well into the 1890s, production began to dwindle in mid-century when it was replaced by other fibers that were less labor-intensive to produce.²⁶ Similar cereal grains continued to be produced in 1850 as in 1840. Kentucky ranked first in the country in Indian corn production, and Clark County produced more than any other year, yielding 1,213,007 bushels.²⁷ Indian corn continued to be a major staple throughout the decades because it sustained the livestock.

²⁰ Clark, 125.

²¹ Perrin, ed., 179

²² Harrison and Klotter, 135.

²³ Clark, 128.

²⁴ U.S. Census of Agriculture, 1840. Available online at :

http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/Historical_Publications/1840/1840a-01.pdf, Accessed 2-20-08.

²⁵ Clark, 115.

²⁶ Clark., 116.

²⁷ U.S. Census of Agriculture, 1850 & 1860. Available online at:

http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/Historical_Publications/index.asp#first, Accessed 2-20-08

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Many farmers recognized that raising livestock could bring in more revenue than crops, so most acreage was devoted to pasture.²⁸ In 1850, the value of Clark County's livestock was fourth in the state and consisted mostly of swine and sheep. Mules also played a significant role in the livestock market during this period. Mules had several beneficial characteristics that included steady balance, early maturity, long lives, and inexpensive maintenance. Overall, the value of animals slaughtered gradually increased between 1850 (\$80,843) and 1860 (\$138,816), but spiked between 1860 and 1870 to over \$900,000!

In 1860, 60% of Clark County's farms were between 100 and 500 acres, while only 29% of Kentucky farms fell into this range.²⁹ In 1860, the dollar value per farm in Clark County was \$9,088.00, which tended to be much higher than the state average for farms in terms of size and value.³⁰

Kentucky was at the forefront of agricultural production in the nation by the Civil War. Kentucky ranked first among southern states in the production of rye, barley, horses and mules; second in hemp, tobacco, corn, wheat and sheep; third in hogs; and fourth in cattle.³¹

Life in the rural regions of Clark County was interrupted by the Civil War. Surplus agricultural production ceased and families set aside what they had for personal use. Crops were neglected, livestock taken and horses raided, but these things were eventually re-established after the war. Building construction came to a halt because money had to be conserved and manpower was sent off to war. The biggest repercussion of the Civil War was the loss of slave labor. The substantial investment in slavery and the ensuing economic loss following the war was particularly devastating for wealthy farmers.³²

Diversified farming had maintained Kentucky since the settlement era, but was considerably affected by the loss of farm labor. Prices increased and surplus decreased. Hemp production continued to dwindle, but about the same time, white burley tobacco was "discovered" and provided a cash crop to fill the void of hemp. And while white burley tobacco was also labor-intensive to produce, a new sharecropping and tenant class emerged to work the fields, workers that included whites and blacks.³³ By 1880, the average farm size decreased to about 179 acres.

Kentucky livestock maintained its primary position through the late-nineteenth century, despite the railroad beginning to open up the wide expanses of the American west for cattle grazing. Livestock continued to thrive, though began to focus on cattle and horses, while sheep and swine counts decreased dramatically.³⁴ Although the total value of livestock in the Bluegrass region dropped as compared with the state overall, Clark County's total grew from \$696,385 to \$1,629,243. Clark continued to maintain a high position in its overall agricultural production: 3rd in total value in production, and 4th in cash value among farms in the Bluegrass.

Kentucky still led the nation in hemp production into the 1890s, but the substantial farm help it required made it less profitable.³⁵ Corn and grain production decreased as the flat plains of the

²⁸ Amos, 89.

²⁹ Amos, 87.

³⁰ Amos, 88.

³¹ Harrison and Klotter, 138.

³² Harrison and Klotter, 207.

³³ Amos, 128.

³⁴ Amos, 131.

³⁵ Clark, 116.

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American Midwest were found to be a more suitable environment.³⁶ Although Midwestern terrain also proved to be equally good pastureland, Kentucky retained its reputation in the cattle industry.³⁷ Farmers allocated more land to pasture to compensate for the decreasing hemp, corn, and grain markets at the end of the century. The production of non-row grasses, such as bluegrass and hay, increased after mid-century to maintain the growing cattle industry.³⁸ The production and processing of bluegrass seed continued to thrive throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

The change that had the biggest impact on the agricultural industry of the Inner Bluegrass region was the switch from dark Virginia tobacco to white burley tobacco around 1880.³⁹ Compared with western Kentucky, not much tobacco was grown in antebellum bluegrass.⁴⁰ This new lighter strain of tobacco, however, was much better suited for factory-produced cigarettes, which were gaining popularity as consumer items at the end of the nineteenth century. The demand was high and prices increased. High return enabled farmers to decrease the size of their plots, and make a substantial wage.⁴¹

Tobacco continued to be king-of-the-crops in central Kentucky at the beginning of the twentieth century. The demand increased as cigarette smoking became more fashionable. As the price for tobacco continued to skyrocket, farmers abandoned previous crops and devoted more land to its cultivation. White burley tobacco could be harvested earlier than dark tobacco and was safely air-dried in barns that had opening panels to control moisture.⁴² Tobacco barns began to sprout up everywhere and became a Kentucky cultural icon. Built on hilltops, the wind could easily blow through the openings and dry the tobacco more quickly.

In the first decade of the twentieth century, however, the tobacco industry experienced a setback. Excess growers and tobacco corporate monopolies threatened the market and drove prices down. The tobacco industry stabilized around World War I, and the federal government added further stability by initiating production controls during the New Deal years of the 1930s.⁴³ In combination with efforts made by the University of Kentucky to improve the plant strains, tobacco continues to be Kentucky's main cash crop today.

Besides tobacco, early twentieth-century farmers within the Clark County continued to produce large quantities of bluegrass seed and hay and raise livestock. "Our best grass in Kentucky is the 'Kentucky Bluegrass' (*Poa Pretensis*). It forms a fine, thick sod, affords much grazing, and continues green all winter, so that stock will keep fat upon it through the year."⁴⁴ Eventually farmers would begin to raise grasses for fodder and ground cover, but this industry would not really take off until after the Civil War.

³⁶ Ibid.

³⁷ Ned Crankshaw, Julie Riesenweber and Krista Schneider, *Nelson County, Kentucky Rural Design Guidelines*. Lexington: University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Department of Landscape Architecture, 2001, 30.

³⁸ Clark, 110.

³⁹ William M Beckner, *Hand book of Clark County and the City of Winchester, Kentucky*. Chicago, Ill.: Arkansas Traveler Publishing Co., 1889, 5.

⁴⁰ Amos, 83.

⁴¹ Harrison and Klotter, 279.

⁴² Harrison and Klotter, 294.

⁴³ Ibid., 295.

⁴⁴ Clark, 116.

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In the early-twentieth century, farm size continued to decrease as the number of farms increased. The number peaked in 1920 with 270,000 farms in the state.⁴⁵ Between 1900 and 1920, farms shrank to an average of 100 acres and then, by 1940, 80 acres. Innovations in the science of agriculture enabled farmers to produce more efficiently on smaller plots. Many farms belonged to absentee owners and were managed by tenant farmers. As a result, more small lots were partitioned from larger properties to accommodate tenant farmers. Parcels usually included a small one-story two-room-plan frame house and minimal outbuildings, including an outhouse, shed, or a garage.

Despite new technologies that catapulted the nation into the modern age after World War I, much of the rural community lagged behind. As late as 1940, four out of five dwellings in rural Kentucky were lacking electricity, telephones, and refrigeration. Hard-surfaced roads were almost non-existent.⁴⁶ It would not be until after World War II when many of these family farms could afford these amenities.

Following World War II, industrialization and mechanization initiated a new era that had a major effect on farms in the study area.⁴⁷ Twentieth century advances changed the agricultural landscape. Tractors and planting machines eliminated the need for laborers. The introduction of mowing and baling equipment increased the hay crops. The availability of the automobile and the pick-up truck enabled farmers to easily reach city markets. In addition, scientific advancements improved seed strains and fertilizers.⁴⁸ The old agrarian system, based on a relationship with nature, was being threatened.

The advent of the interstate highway system particularly transformed the landscape of the study area. In the northern portion of the study area, the construction of I-64 just north of Winchester-Lexington Road caused considerable growth and development between 1950 and today. Because of its central location between Lexington and Winchester and the availability of larger lots, it was particularly attractive to those leaving the larger cities and towns. Farmers subdivided road-fronting portions of their properties to developers who in turn, split them up into one-to-ten-acre lots.

Cattle revenue in Kentucky is surpassed by horses and tobacco. Black Angus and white-faced Hereford cows are the prevailing breeds today.⁴⁹ Bluegrass seed is rarely grown in the region anymore, but there are a considerable number of farms producing surplus hay and sod for sale.⁵⁰ Sod and hay production occupies more acreage in the study area than tobacco or corn. Hay is the main source of food for cattle and horses.

WOODFORD-FISHBACK-VENABLE FARM AND FAMILY HISTORY:

In the mid-to-late eighteenth century, pioneers blazed their way west and Kentucky was the wild frontier. Although there were several claims laid to Kentucky lands, it was Virginia territory, chartered in 1609 from the English King, James I.⁵¹ The Commonwealth of Virginia offered attractive land grants

⁴⁵ Harrison and Klotter, 298.

⁴⁶ Ibid.

⁴⁷ Clark, 117.

⁴⁸ Ulack, 159.

⁴⁹ Clark, 145.

⁵⁰ R. Gerald Alvey. *Kentucky Bluegrass Country*. Jackson and London: University Press of Mississippi, 1992, 8.

⁵¹ Harrison and Klotter, 18.

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and purchasing rights to military officers, pioneers, and landed aristocracy migrating to Kentucky. Price and demand for fertile land in the vicinity of Lexington was high long before the close of the eighteenth century. Because of the financial advantages available, veterans of colonial and the Revolutionary wars, and landed gentry from Virginia and Maryland were able to secure large tracts of land in the Inner Bluegrass region.⁵²

Review of "Early Kentucky Land Records: 1773-1780" revealed that the Woodford-Fishback-Venable Farm was originally part of a 1000-acre parcel purchased under a Preemption Warrant by Virginian, John Morgan. Under the Virginia Land Law of 1779, residents Kentucky County prior to January 1, 1778, who had made an improvement and planted a crop of corn, were eligible for a 400-acre Certificate of Settlement for the land they had improved. They could purchase an additional 1000 acres under a Preemption Warrant. In 1784, John Morgan passed 650 acres of land on Lower Howard's creek to his son Charles Morgan.

During the next thirty years the tract was split into smaller parcels and sold to early Clark County settlers. Morgan conveyed a parcel to Thomas F. Morrow, who in 1817 sold 128.5 acres to Thomas Jones. In 1826, Thomas Jones sold the parcel (then described as 125 acres), to Caleb Parrish who retained it until 1849, when it was purchased by Samuel Archer Bedford Woodford. This 125 acre parcel represents the majority of the southern part of the current Woodford-Fishback-Venable Farm.

Also in 1817, Charles Morgan sold 140 acres to John Alexander for \$840. This second parcel included a large majority of the northern part of the current farm, where the main dwelling is located. According to the aforementioned deed, John Alexander already resided on the property and continued to do so after 1837 when he conveyed part of the ownership to his son, John Alexander, Jr. In 1841, John Alexander Sr. and Jr. jointly conveyed 115 acres of land, upon which they lived, to William Webb for \$4,600. The incredible spike in sale price between 1817 and 1841 suggests that there were significant improvements made to the property. It is quite possible that John Alexander, Sr. constructed a single pen log structure prior to 1817 and later added another pen to form the dog trot that is the main block of the existing residence. In 1845, William Webb died and the 115 acres passed to his daughter Susan Q. Webb. Susan later married Samuel W. Chiles and the two retained the property for 4 years before selling the farm, including the house, to Samuel Archer Bedford Woodford for \$4025.

Federal Census records between 1810 and 1840 show John Alexander Sr. and (in 1840) John Alexander Jr. engaged in agriculture on the northern part of the property, but at a relatively small subsistence-level scale. Only the immediate family, and no slaves, are listed on the Census and no slaves. It was not until 1840, and under John Alexander Jr.'s name, that slaves are listed, but the farm was sold to William Webb the following year. Comparatively, at the same time, Thomas Jones employed 10 slaves on the lower 128.5 acres. The extra labor could have helped him harvest such labor-intensive crops as hemp or tobacco. When Caleb Parrish acquired the property in 1826, he appears to have maintained similar practices. In 1830 he had approximately 10 slaves, and in 1840 about 18.

Land usage and field patterns are continuously modified as farm practices develop, therefore, it is not typical for these features to survive. Natural boundaries like water and topography are more likely to survive. On the Woodford-Fishback-Venable Farm, Lower Howard's Creek defines the eastern and southern edges. Combs Ferry Road, an early trail connecting the Kentucky River with Lexington and Winchester, remains the western boundary. The flat hilltop location of the domestic yard and main

⁵² Murray Wooley and Raitz, 72.

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dwelling was chosen to avoid flooding and for the commanding views of the surrounding area. Other level uplands on the farm were chosen as cropland because flat fields provide easier harvesting.

Visual evidence indicates that the main dwelling and log chicken house are the only physical remnants from the early-nineteenth century. Many early dwellings constructed by settlers on the Bluegrass countryside were log. While some early log dwellings were built to serve as temporary shelter until more suitable accommodations were constructed, others remained permanent homes, receiving later additions and improvements. The earliest section of the main dwelling, was a one- or one-and-one-half-story single-pen log house. Soon after, a second pen about the same size was built to the south of and connected to the existing structure with an open breezeway/dogtrot. Agricultural outbuildings in Kentucky were limited pre-1820. A typical farm might only have a corn-crib or multi-purpose barn that was located beyond the domestic lot or in a field or pasture.⁵³ Aside from the main dwellings, relatively few ancillary structures survive, making the log chicken house an exceptional example.

Although we can only make assumptions about farm activities in the earliest years, it is clear that Samuel Archer Bedford Woodford elevated production and output at the farm and can be credited with its success in the mid-to-late nineteenth century. Several properties acquired by Woodford between 1849 and 1853 embody the bulk of the present-day Woodford-Fishback-Venable Farm. The two largest north and south parcels are divided by an east-west rock fence built by S.A.B. Woodford between 1850 and 1870. In 1853, S.A.B. acquired 31 acres at the southeast corner of the property from Jonathon Bush. These three parcels are still clearly defined on aerial maps by existing fencerows.

Samuel Archer Bedford Woodford was born in Fredericksburg, Virginia in 1815, and came to Kentucky with his parents at the age of three. He was well-educated, and worked the Colby Road family farm at a young age. In 1840 he married Martha Holliday. Nine years later he purchased 115 acres on the east side of Lower Howard's Creek that make up the northern half of the farm and include the house. According to the current owners, S.A.B. Woodford set about making improvements to the house and land immediately. He raised the log dogtrot to two stories. Measurements taken inside the house reveal window and door frames a width in excess of 1 feet, indicating thick log construction. Woodford also enclosed the dogtrot, creating a central passage plan. Lastly, Woodford widened the windows and added Greek Revival details to the interior and exterior. First used for civil architecture in America, the Greek Revival style represented stability and prosperity—a statement S.A.B. Woodford purposefully conveyed.

Like any farmer, Woodford began clearing the land and preparing it for agricultural activities. Local limestone was used to build dry laid rock fences which delineated property lines and field functions. Local limestone was also used to construct roadways. Often, quarries were dug adjacent to the road to ease stone retrieval. In the case of the Woodford-Fishback-Venable Farm, according to the owners, this farm's quarry was not opened until about 1915, when S.A.B. Woodford's son Lewis conveyed it to the Clark County Road Department to use the rock for paving. It is highly likely, however, the quarry was a source for stone to repair the existing rock fences. An exceptional amount of exterior and interior rock fence survives.

S.A.B. Woodford acquired the northern and southern halves of the farm between 1849 and 1850, approximately 240 acres, and had a substantial diversified farming operation. As portrayed by Kentucky Agricultural Census data, the height of S.A.B. Woodford's farming was between the years of 1850 and

⁵³ Rachel Kennedy and William Macintire, "Agricultural and Domestic Outbuildings in Central and Western Kentucky, 1800-1865." Unpublished booklet on file at the Kentucky Heritage Council, Frankfort, 1999. 6.

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1870. Not only did S.A.B. expand his land holdings during this time, he expanded the diversity of what he was producing and heightened his yields.

Comparative census data from 1850 reveal that S.A.B.'s farm activities paralleled the county and state markets, but his output was above average. He operated a successful middling farm with diversified agricultural productions. S.A.B. Woodford owned approximately 240 acres (125 south half and 115 north half) of land and its cash value was \$9600, while the county-wide average for farm size was 193 acres and value at approximately \$9,000 – and he had only been on the land for less than one year!

In 1850 Woodford retained more mules and swine than any other animal. These data coincide with the visual and oral evidence that the mule barn was built mid-nineteenth century. According to *The Bluegrass Cultural Landscape*, “The remaining building’s associated with Kentucky’s mule industry, that have retained integrity, are found in dwindling numbers”⁵⁴ Clark County maintained more mules and swine between 1840 and 1860 than ever again.

Also in 1850, Kentucky ranked first in the nation in Indian corn production and likewise, S.A.B. grew more Indian corn than in any year, his yield totaling 2300 bushels. And while he also harvested more oats than in any other year (200 bushels), Clark County would reach its peak oat output the following year. This first year on the farm, was the only year S.A.B. is reported to have raised dew-rotted hemp, not doubt discovering the difficulty of harvesting such a labor-intensive crop.

In 1853 S.A.B. Woodford engaged in an agreement with William T. Bush to be part-owner of the William T. Bush Distillery located on Lower Howard’s Creek. As part of the agreement, S.A.B. kept a distillery warehouse on his property so whiskey barrels could be stored before transport overland to Lexington and Winchester. In *Clark County Kentucky: A History*, Clark writes, “Perhaps the most important warehouse was that of William Bush, which was located on the Clark side of the Kentucky River near the mouth of Lower Howard’s Creek. Since the county had a fair boundary on this stream and its lands became highly productive at an early stage of bringing it under cultivation, warehouses came to have tremendous economic importance.”⁵⁵ As previously mentioned, the warehouse, built around 1850, was originally located in the southwest corner of the property, then moved to its current location at the turn-of-the-twentieth century. It should be noted that between the 1850 and 1860, the Agricultural Censuses show that S.A.B. was growing large amounts of corn and rye—the primary ingredients of whiskey. And in 1863, barrels of whiskey were confiscated during the Civil War; in 1888 Woodford received relief for this loss from the Federal government.⁵⁶

The 1860 Kentucky Agriculture Census, S.A.B. showed increased landholdings and had more than doubled his value to \$19,200. The average value for a Clark County farm this year was only \$9,088.00.⁵⁷ S.A.B. Woodford had settled into his farming operation and was able to maximize production. It is interesting to note the dramatic increase in animals on hand: counts of sheep and swine are both listed at 140; and the value of animals slaughtered had risen from \$132 in 1850 to \$595. Pounds of wool increased exponentially, from 75 pounds in 1850 to 500 pounds in 1860. The number of mules dropped to nineteen, but the number of horses had grown to eighteen, indicating a reliance on animal

⁵⁴ Amos, 78

⁵⁵ Clark, 102.

⁵⁶ “The Statutes at Large of the United States of America from December 1887 to March 1889: Recent Treaties, Postal Conventions and Executive Proclamations,” Volume XXV, Washington, D.C.: 1889, 1056.

⁵⁷ Amos, 88

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labor for farming activities. With the incredible increase in field crop output (wheat and rye), the extra horsepower was needed. Wheat production tripled to 300 bushels from only 100 in 1850. Hay production was also at an all-time high for S.A.B. Indeed, the farm was the most diverse at this point with the addition of hops, rye, peas and beans, as well as bee and orchard products. On an average Clark County farm in 1860, there were approximately 10 horses, 6 mules and asses, 15 cattle, 19 sheep, 41 hogs, 128 bushels of wheat, 1457 bushels of corn and .77 tons of hemp.⁵⁸ The Woodford-Fishback-Venable Farm surpassed these averages on all accounts.

The 1870 Agricultural Census shows S.A.B. narrowed production activities, keeping the most profitable of these, and abandoning others. Only a few crop products are listed (Indian corn, hay, rye, peas and beans, and potatoes); since the quantity of some of these is small, it is likely that they were consumables for the farm and family. The most dramatic change in the farm must have come from the move to raise more animals for meat production. Non-dairy cattle numbers increased from 20 to 100 between 1860 and 1870, but more significantly, the value of animals slaughtered increased from \$595 to \$6000. By 1860 the cattle industry was solidified in Clark and Fayette Counties.⁵⁹ Kentucky farmers allocated more land to pasture to compensate for the decreasing hemp, corn, and grain markets at the end of the century. The production of non-row grasses such as bluegrass and hay increased after mid-century to maintain the growing cattle industry.⁶⁰ S.A.B. was likely an auspicious farming figure in the community. By this time, he had established himself and the future of his farm in the cattle business.

In the 1880 agricultural census, there is quite noticeably a ramping down of farm activities and the reduction of land holdings. The 236 improved acres listed includes 42 acres tilled and fallow in rotation; 111 permanent meadow, pasture, orchard, and vineyard; 40 acres of woodland forest, 15 mown acres, 8 hay acres, 8 Indian corn acres, 4 acres of apple trees, and fractions of an acre for Irish and sweet potatoes.

The Civil War and emancipation threatened to overthrow the farming system of Central Kentucky. The substantial investment in slavery and the ensuing economic loss following the war was particularly devastating for wealthy farmers.⁶¹ Slave labor was lost, but some freedmen stayed and worked as tenant farmers or paid hands. While the 1850 and 1860 Federal Census indicates S.A.B. had approximately 11 slaves, in 1870 only one black man named John Jones is shown and in 1880, a black married couple named James and Liddia Stevens were living and working on the farm as laborer and servant.

In June 1881, S.A.B. Woodford put several tracts of land, including the one upon which he lived into trust for his two daughters, Nancy and Mariah. Nancy received the 128.5 acre southern tract plus the 31 acres from Jonathon Bush while Mariah received the northern portion including the house. Farming continued on the farm with the help of family and tenants. S.A.B.'s wife Martha died in 1878, leaving his daughter Lucy to keep house and her new husband Blaydes Browning to help farm. Also farming and living on the land was James and Adelaide Green and their two sons.

At the turn-of-the-century, S.A.B. was still head-of-household, though 85 years of age. Nancy (Nannie) married John J. Fishback and Mariah remained unmarried. Together they took care of their

⁵⁸ Amos 90

⁵⁹ Thomas D. Clark, 125.

⁶⁰ *Ibid.*, 110.

⁶¹ Lowell H. Harrison and James C. Klotter, 207.

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aging father who would die six years later. In 1907, Lucy Buckner Woodford Browning (fifth daughter) conveyed approximately 42 acres of land to her sister Miss Mariah Woodford.⁶² This parcel, located immediately north of Mariah's 115 acres increased the property size to approximately 156.68.

John J. Fishback began taking over the farming responsibilities following S.A.B. Woodford's death. Although the cattle business was retained, John no doubt recognized the profitability of raising white burley tobacco and introduced it to the farm around 1915. As the price of tobacco continued to skyrocket, farmers abandoned previous crops and devoted more land to its cultivation. Consequently, tobacco was such a labor-intensive crop to harvest, that property owners built small, one-story frame houses for tenant farmers who managed the fields. Some were built on the interior of the farm, but at the close of the century and into the twentieth century road-fronting parcels were partitioned for the laborers. On the Woodford-Fishback-Venable Farm, John J. Fishback erected a tenant house and the original tobacco barn on the southern most hill, adjacent to the tobacco fields.

In the early twentieth century, farm size continued to decrease as the number of farms increased. Because the Woodford-Fishback-Venable Farm was owned and operated by the same family since 1849, it was not as susceptible to these changes. In addition, its success as a cattle farm allowed the owners to continue operation. The farm also maintained diversified production that got most revenue from cattle and tobacco, but also produced corn, rye, alfalfa, clover, hay, bluegrass seed, and barley. In 1932, John J. Fishback passed away, leaving his wife Nannie and her sister Mariah on the farm. Mariah died in 1942 with no heirs and under unknown circumstances; her property fell to her sister Sallie (Woodford) Browning. In January of 1944, Martha Fishback Venable, the daughter of Nancy (Nannie) Woodford Fishback and John J. Fishback would purchased the 156.68 acres of her Aunt Sally's estate at a forced public auction.⁶³

Martha and her husband Charles S. Venable produced two children, John and Jane. The family lived in 457 S. Maple Street in Winchester, but visited the family farm every weekend. Charles began taking over farming responsibilities after John J. Fishback's death, though he never lived on the farm. As John got older, he began spending more time working on the farm, and by 1943 worked there full time. In 1945 John O. Venable enrolled in the University of Kentucky's College of Agriculture. He graduated in 1948 and moved permanently to the farm in 1954. His college degree and familiarity with farming practices prepared him well for the job. His grandmother, Nannie Woodford Fishback died intestate in 1959, leaving Martha the 125 acres, 1 rood and 8 square poles south of the east/west rock fence and the 31 acres and 3 roods southeast near Lower Howard's Creek.

Following World War II, industrialization and mechanization initiated a new era that had major effects on farms.⁶⁴ Twentieth-century advances changed the agricultural landscape. Tractors and planting machines eliminated the need for laborers. The introduction of mowing and baling equipment increased the hay crops. The availability of the automobile and the pick-up truck enabled farmers to easily reach city markets. In addition, scientific advancements improved seed strains and fertilizers.⁶⁵ John O. Venable kept up with farming trends and maintained a successful cattle and tobacco operation.

Changing trends in agriculture cause alterations to land use and building types. Few of the

⁶² Clark County, Kentucky Deed Books, Lucy Browning to Maria Woodford, Book 78, Page 617.

⁶³ Clark County, Kentucky Deed Books, Sally D. Browning to Martha Fishback Venable, Book 122, Page 96

⁶⁴ Thomas D. Clark, 117.

⁶⁵ Richard Ulack, Karl Raitz and Gyula Pauer, editors, 159.

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buildings and structures on the Woodford-Fishback-Venable Farm still exist in their original form. Recycled components in the form of hand-worked log, pit-and-radial-sawn timber, as well as other mill sawn timber types, were incorporated into the buildings and structures that still exist on the farm. In most cases, these have been altered to suit the changing needs of the farm through the last one-hundred-and-fifty years. For example, fields devoted to the cultivation of hemp in the early-nineteenth century could have been switched to raise tobacco in the early twentieth century. Likewise, tobacco barns were often adapted as stock barns when the tobacco market decreased. On the Woodford-Fishback-Venable Farm, the mule barn was adapted as a cattle barn and the eastern-most tobacco barn (1946) was adapted as machine storage and corn crib.

Through the 1960s and up to the present, John O. Venable has continued to improve and build upon the existing farm and his needs evolved. He is responsible for erecting approximately 50% of the outbuildings on the farm. In 1979, John and Jane jointly purchased the farm, and 1987 their mother Martha died. Together they are the heart of the farm. Their sense of respect for the history of the farm and its success is conveyed through the retention, repurposing, and renewing of buildings on the property.

Within the last few years, John and Jane have sold approximately 50 acres of land to the Clark County/Winchester Heritage Commission to annex to the Lower Howard's Creek Nature and Heritage Preserve. All of this land, located at the far east and south of the property is steep wooded land, not suited for farming or pasture.

The Woodford-Fishback-Venable Farm is distinguished from other farms in the area through its comprehensive collection of historic resources that retain an incredible amount of historic character and feeling. Because the farm has been continually owned and farmed by the same family since 1849, it retains a considerable amount of historic character (integrity) from its agricultural past. Intact and continuously utilized since their construction, the buildings, structures, and man-made landscape features that make up the whole of the Woodford-Fishback-Venable Farm are notwithstanding in their ability to convey the image of an historic farm. The number of surviving and functioning historic structures on the property adds to the quality of the farm experience. Moreover, the property possesses a significant concentration, linkage, and continuity of areas of land use, vegetation, buildings and structures, roads and waterways, and natural features.

Cultural resources within the property boundaries enhance our understanding of how patterns of traditional diversified agriculture were adapted to natural features in southwestern Clark County and the Inner Bluegrass region. The farm is more than just a collection of buildings, but a rural historic landscape that makes clear the relationship between the built and natural environments.

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Woodford-Fishback-Venable Farm
Name of Property

Clark, Kentucky
County/State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 296.84 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1. 16 738628E 4202888N
Zone Easting Northing

Quadrangle Name: Ford

2. 16 739699E 4202868N
Zone Easting Northing

3. 16 739656E 4201542N
Zone Easting Northing

4. 16 738624E 4201528N
Zone Easting Northing

[] 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 Vanessa Zeoli

organization _____ date 2/2008

street & number 60 Cedar Avenue, First Floor telephone 215-460-3516

city or town Highland Park state NJ zip code 08904

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 John O. Venable and Jane Venable Brown

street & number 5696 Combs Ferry Road (CR 1923) telephone _____

city or town Winchester state KY zip code 40391

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 range from approximately 18 hours to 36 hours depending on several factors including, but not limited to, how much documentation may already exist on the type of property being nominated and whether the property is being nominated as part of a Multiple Property Documentation Form. In most cases, it is estimated to average 36 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form to meet minimum National Register documentation requirements. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, 1849 C St., NW, Washington, DC 20240.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: The area proposed for listing is 296.84 acres, the majority of a 321-acre farm. The proposed area for listing is delimited on the map below. The farm is designated in the Clark County Kentucky Property Valuation Administrator Office as 016-0000-017-00, which is Map 16, parcel 17.



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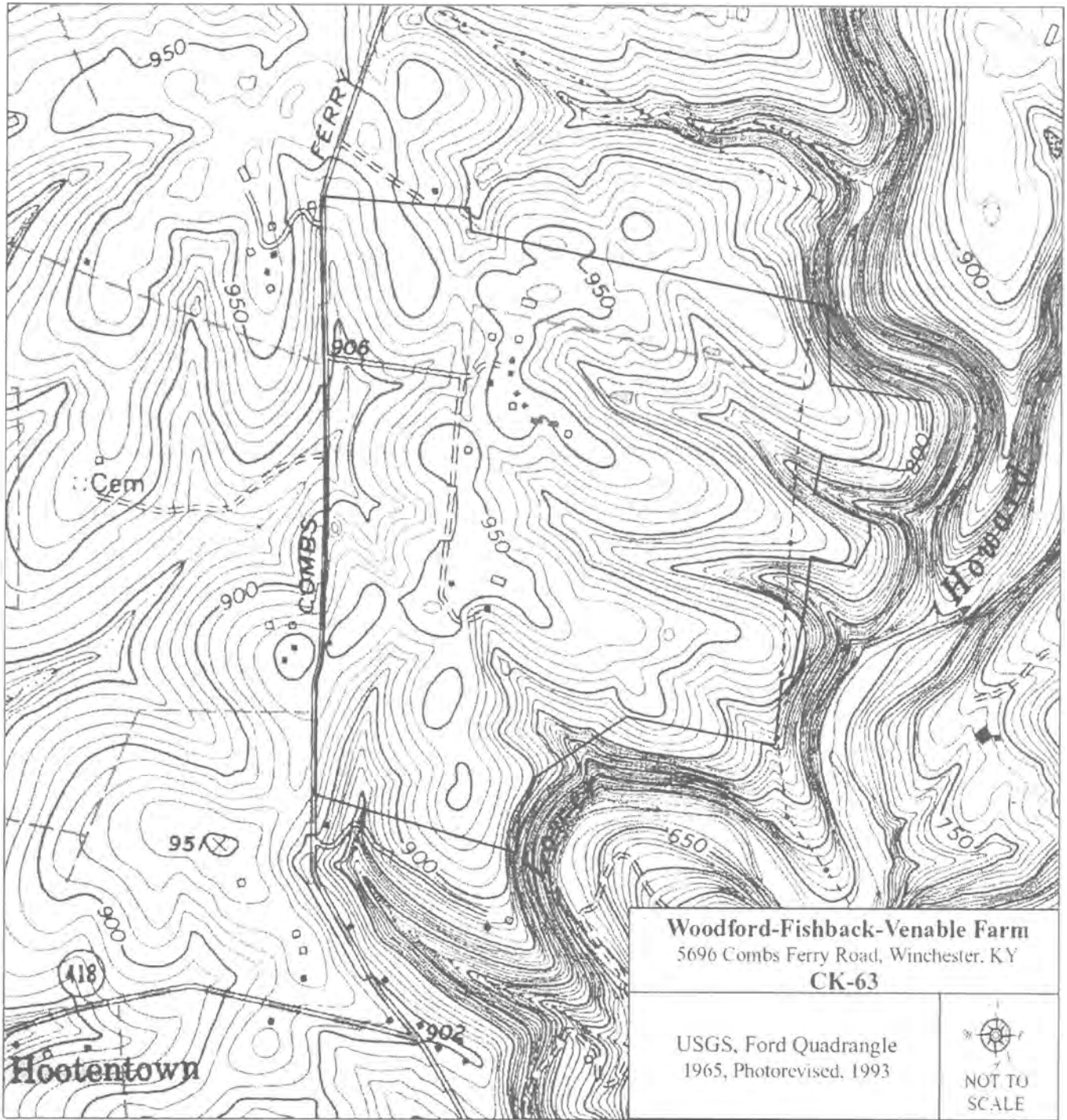
BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries for the nominated property, the Woodford-Fishback-Venable Farm, reflect the current legally recorded property boundaries and includes 296.84 acres. Except for 47 acres of forestland deeded to the Lower Howard's Creek Nature and Heritage Preserve in 2004, the property still retains the majority of the land accumulated by S.A.B. Woodford and has been maintained as a functioning diversified farm by his descendants until the present day. This parcel preserves the relationship of the individual farm buildings to each other and to the surrounding fields and pastures. The complete acreage includes all historic and non-historic cultural and natural resources that are associated with the property.

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Additional Documentation, Page 35



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Additional Documentation, **PHOTOGRAPH KEY**, Page 1

Site Plan Key	Photo Number	Property Name	County/ State	Description	Date	Photographer
0	0001	Woodford-Fishback-Venable Farm	Clark, KY	Main dwelling, front façade, view NE	10-31-07	Vanessa Zeoli
0	0002			Main dwelling, north façade, view SW	10-31-07	
0	0003			Main dwelling, south façade, view N	10-31-07	
0	0004			Main dwelling, south façade, view NW	10-31-07	
0	0005			Main dwelling, south gable, view N	10-31-07	
0	0006			Main dwelling, north hall, view NW	11-6-07	
0	0007			Main dwelling, central passage, view E	11-6-07	
0	0008			Main dwelling, hall entrance, view NE	11-6-07	
0	0009			Main dwelling, main approach, view E	11-6-07	
0	0010			Southwestern field, view S	11-6-07	
0	0011			Pasture west of dwelling, view W	10-31-07	
0	0012			Pasture west of dwelling, view W	10-31-07	
1	0013			Mule shed, view NE	11-14-07	
2	0014			Cow barn, view NE	10-31-07	
3	0015			Horse barn, view NE	10-31-07	
4	0016			Sled barn, view NW	10-31-07	
5	0017			Slave house ruins, view NE	10-31-07	
6	0018			Meathouse, view southwest	10-31-07	
7	0019			Storage Building #2, view E	10-31-07	
8	0020			Calf creep feeder, view SW	10-31-07	
9	0021			Garage, view E	2-28-07	
10	0022			Log chicken house, view NW	2-28-07	
11	0023			Run-in cattle shed, view NW	10-31-07	
12	0024			Equipment shed, view W	10-31-07	
13	0025			Tobacco barn, view SE	10-31-07	
14	0026			Machine shed, view E	10-31-07	
15	0027			Shop building, view SW	10-31-07	
16	0028			Family cemetery, view E	2-28-07	
17	0029			Northern Rock fence, view SE	2-28-07	
17	0030			Central Rock fence, view NW	11-6-07	
17	0031			Central Rock fence, view SE	10-31-07	
17	0032			Rock fence, view W	11-6-07	
18	0033			Corn crib, view SW	10-31-07	
19	0034			Hay barn, view N	2-28-07	
20	0035			Bull barn, view SE	11-6-07	
21	0036			Tenant House, view NW	11-6-07	
22	0037			Tenant House, view NE	11-6-07	
23	0038			Tobacco barn, view NE	11-6-07	
24	0039			Hay Pavilion, view W	11-6-07	
25	0040			Hay Pavilion, View NE	11-6-07	
26	0041			Machine Pavilion, view W	11-6-07	
27	0042			Feed sheds, view E	11-6-07	
28	0043			Water tank, view SE	11-6-07	
29	0044			Quarry, view NE	11-6-07	

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of Property

County and State

Section number _____ Page _____

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 08000655

Date Listed: 7/8/08

Property Name: Woodford-Fishback-Venable Farm

County: Clark

State: KY

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

[Handwritten Signature]

Signature of the Keeper

7/8/2008

Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 8: Period of Significance

The period of significance is stated as being 1800-1960. Neither the beginning date nor the ending date is justified in the nomination. The documented period of significance begins with the Woodford acquisition of the entire farmstead in 1849 and should end in 1958. Samuel Woodford was responsible for consolidating smaller farms into the present farm and improving substantially its agricultural output.

The Period of Significance is hereby amended to read 1849-1958.

The Kentucky State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file**
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)**

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Woodford--Fishback--Venable Farm

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: KENTUCKY, Clark

DATE RECEIVED: 5/08/08
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 7/2/08
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

DATE OF PENDING LIST: 6/16/08
DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/21/08

REFERENCE NUMBER: 08000655

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 7/8/08 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

A good example of a mixed-use, Bluegrass Farm. The Farm was a leading producer in the area in the 19th Century and remained a successful, diversified Farm by adapting to new technologies and farming practices. The Farm is significant locally under Criterion A

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept/Crit A

REVIEWER J. Coburn DISCIPLINE Historian

TELEPHONE _____ DATE 7/8/08

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

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

























































MARTHA
WOODFORD
1870-1900

SAMUEL
WOODFORD
1815-1906































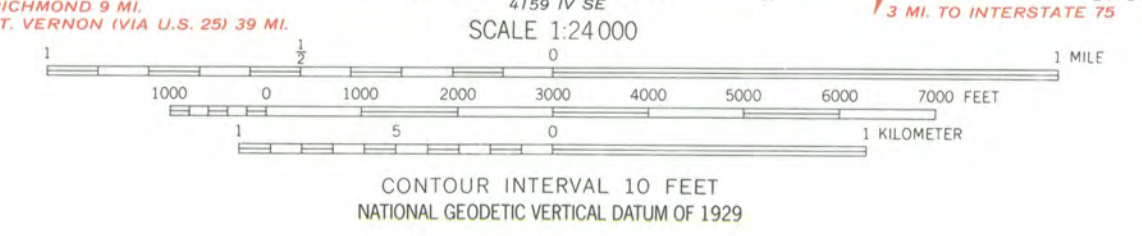
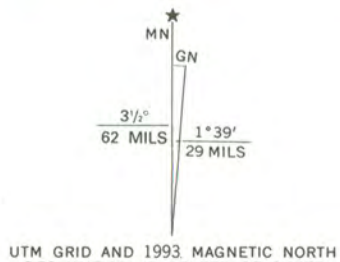




CK-63
WOODFORD-FISBECK-
VENABLE FARM
5646 COMBS
FERRY RD
WINCHESTER, KY
40391

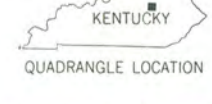
- 1) 738624 E
4202868 N
- 2) 739649 E
4202868 N
- 3) 73856 E
4201542 N
4. 738624 E
4201528 N

Produced by the United States Geological Survey
Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, USCE and Kentucky Geodetic Survey
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1950. Field checked 1952. Revised 1965
Projection: Kentucky coordinate system, north zone (Lambert conformal conic)
10,000-foot grid ticks: Kentucky coordinate system, north and south zones
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 16, shown in blue 1927 North American Datum (NAD 27)
North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) is shown by dashed corner ticks
The values of the shift between NAD 27 and NAD 83 for 7.5-minute intersections are given in USGS Bulletin 1875
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



ROAD CLASSIFICATION	
Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
Interstate Route	U.S. Route
	Slate Route

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



FORD, KY.
NE 1/4 VALLEY VIEW 15' QUADRANGLE
37084-H3-TF-024
REVISED 1993
1965
DMA 4159 IV NE-SERIES V853

Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled in cooperation with State of Kentucky agencies from aerial photographs taken 1988 and other sources. Contours not revised. This information not field checked. Map edited 1993



COMMERCE CABINET
KENTUCKY HERITAGE COUNCIL

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Frankfort, Kentucky 40601
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Marcheta Sparrow
Secretary

Donna M. Neary
Executive Director and
State Historic Preservation Officer

May 22, 2008

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

Dear Dr. Matthews:

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

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

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

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

We appreciate your consideration of these nominations.

Sincerely,

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