

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

JAN 15 1993

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or 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.

### Name of Property

Historic name Aker, Jacob, Farm

Other names/site number N/A / BB-523 Current Name: Clearwell Farm

### Location

Street & number 795 Bethlehem Road NA  not for publication

City or town Paris  vicinity

State Kentucky code KY county Bourbon code 017 zip code 40361

### State/Federal Agency Certification

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

David L. Morgan  
Signature of certifying official/Title Executive Director/State Historic Preservation Officer Date 1-5-93

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

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

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

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

### National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

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

Signature of the Keeper

Entered in the National Register Date of Action

Helene Byers 2/11/93

Jacob Aker Farm  
Name of Property

Bourbon, Kentucky  
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property  
(Check only one box)

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

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3		buildings
2		sites
		structures
		objects
5	0	Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed  
in the National Register

N/A

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/Secondary structure (2)

EXTRACTION/extractive facility

FUNERARY/cemetery

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Federal

Greek Revival

foundation Limestone

walls Brick (dwelling and office)

Limestone (springhouse)

roof Standing seam metal

other

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

See attached Narrative Description.

Jacob Aker Farm  
Name of Property

Bourbon, Kentucky  
County and State

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

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

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

**Criteria Considerations**

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

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery, included in District
- 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.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

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

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

**Period of Significance**

1810 to 1858

**Significant Dates**

XXXX ca. 1810  
           ca. 1858

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Believed to be John Giltner  
Giltner, John: attributed architect

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

Jacob Aker Farm  
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County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property Aproximately 6 acres

UTM References  
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	16	7395610	4227520
Zone	Easting	Northing	
2			

3			
Zone	Easting	Northing	
4			

See continuation sheet

Paris West, KY, Quad map

Verbal Boundary Description  
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)  
See attached Verbal Boundary Description

Boundary Justification  
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.) See attached Boundary Justification

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title Vanessa Berge

Organization N/A date July 28, 1992

Street & number 795 Bethlehem Road telephone (606) 987-0522 or 233-2012

City or town Paris state Ky zip code 40361

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets  
Attached

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

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

Photographs  
Attached  
Representative black and white photographs of the property.  
Attached

Additional Items  
(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items) Also attached: floor plan of main residence and Aker cemetary map

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)  
Name Continuation sheet attached

Street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

City or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

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 benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

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

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Jacob Aker Farm  
Bourbon County, KY

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### Narrative Description

The Jacob Aker Farm (BB-523) lies in rural Bourbon County, within the rolling farmland in the heart of the Bluegrass region of Kentucky. The farm is approximately four miles from the nearest town and county seat of Paris, population about 6000. The farm lies between the Bethlehem Road and Clintonville Road, and the current entrance is on Bethlehem Road. Historically, entrance was from Clintonville Road.

The Aker Farm contains a contributing building, two contributing structures (springhouse and office) and two contributing sites (quarry and cemetery) on fifty acres, six of which are proposed for nomination.

#### Feature Descriptions: Main Dwelling

The main dwelling was constructed in a number of phases. The basic element, and the earliest portion, is a one-and-one-half story Federal style central passage house that faces south. This became the rear ell of a substantial two-and-one-half story Greek Revival addition in the 1850's, which now stands as the main and front portion of the house and faces west. Foundation marks at ground level, in line with and east of the early structure, indicate that an addition stood nearby, perhaps a kitchen or slave quarters. Marks at the rear of the early portion point to the possibility of a rear ell addition. Interior features do not indicate obviously anything more than a two-phase sequence of expansion: the original and the later Greek revival building campaigns.

The early Federal section features Flemish bond brick work with deep set jackarches over all doors and windows. The western portion of the facade was eliminated with the construction of the Greek revival addition, and appears to have had a window-door-window fenestration pattern. The foundation is of limestone quarried on the farm. The two narrow gables retain their original cornice work. Above the entrance is a rectangular transom which currently has one light.

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The interior of the Federal period building has been altered but some of its spatial organization and features remain very much in evidence. The central hall still terminates in a stairway, with its original turned newel post, straight balusters of walnut, and plain oval hand rail. The partition wall to the right of the central hall has been removed. Beyond it was probably the original parlor or dining room, which now serves as the kitchen. In the current kitchen the interior chimney was removed above roof level in the 1960's, but still exhibits the large fireplace opening, fine mantle, and flanking panelled walnut cupboards. The cupboard to the left of the mantle was altered, probably in the mid-nineteenth century, to create a doorway to the now-demolished east addition. The original woodwork was reconfigured as cabinets above and beside the doorway. The cabinet to the right of the fireplace is in its original configuration and contains solid two-inch walnut plank shelves measuring 60" x 20".

The original central hall staircase leads up to a half-story hallway and a chamber, possibly a travel room, now a full bath. The second floor walls and ceiling are sided with their original ash horizontal beaded random-width planks. Between the hallway and the chamber/bathroom there is a beaded batten door with early hardware.

The Greek revival portion of the house was constructed in approximately 1858 and consists of two downstairs and two upstairs rooms joined by a grand central hall. The front is a symmetrical five-bay facade, with six-over-six light windows, eight feet in height and accentuated by brick pilasters. The composition is given balance by the roof line and an entablature with wide original wood cornice work and box gutters. The brickwork is running bond with narrow pencilled joints. The roof is standing seam metal and interior chimneys extend above the roof line at each end. An outline on the bricks discloses that the porch formerly spanned the entry bay. Its two-story height allows use of entry doors on both levels. The upper and lower story doors are identical, with two lights up and four lights across.

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Inside the Greek revival addition the hallway is dominated by a graceful original staircase with bracketed spindles and finials. The octagonal shape of the newel post is echoed in the existing octagonal capitals formerly used on exterior columns and the decorative columns of the fireplace surround. Entrances to the rooms to the right and left of the hall have eleven foot tall doors and woodwork topped by shouldered architraves, or Grecian "ears". To the left, entering the parlor, the original painted wood grain enlivens the wainscotted areas underneath the windows and the doors. A black mantle with original marbelling is centered on the outside wall of the room. Plaster cornices frame the ceiling. On the other side of the hall is the dining room, dominated by enormous press closet doors flanking the fireplace and extending to the twelve foot ceiling, with a darker grain painted to resemble mahogany. Marks on the floor in this room reveal the prior portions of the flooring from the Federal period.

Upstairs in the north bedroom, inside the closets flanking the fireplace are written inscriptions reading "Edward Sam Hardin, Cincinnati, Ohio, December 17, 1857" and "A.K. Anderson, Cynthiana, Kentucky, Simon Keith Anderson, February 12, 1858", probably the signatures of the original plasterers. In the other second story bedroom there is one closet press, a fireplace, and an entrance with a small door to the stairs to the third floor, underneath which lies a small closet. The third floor hallway and back room woodwork contain original paint colors of mauve and deep purple. A door separates the second-story bedroom of the Greek revival portion from the upper portion of the Federal ell.

Springhouse

Below and to the south of the house in a low dip lies the one room springhouse, probably build contemporaneously with the Federal section of the house. The springhouse was in use at the time of the elder Aker's death in 1841, as the estate property inventory lists "springhouse ware". The entrance faces the Federal entrance facade and the entrance wall is in the gable end. Opposite the entrance is a formerly barred window. The building is in disrepair, lacking a roof and a door.

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### Brick Building (Farm Office or Slave Quarters)

Behind and to the southeast of the main structure is a small domestic outbuilding, either a farm office or a slave quarters, constructed of the same type of brick as is found in the Federal portion of the main house. In contrast to that dwelling, this structure is of utilitarian design and of lesser quality construction. The one room plan is lit by two window openings, the windows currently missing. An exterior fireplace is located opposite the door on a gable end. The building faces the federal section of the house. Some remaining federal woodwork would suggest it more likely that this served as an office.

### Cemetery

The cemetery is an integral part of the farmstead as configured in the 1800's and is located north and uphill from the house some 350 feet. The graves face south toward the house. Seven members of the Aker family are buried there, and their headstones reflect deaths from 1841 to 1865, including the elder Jacob Aker who constructed the Federal portion of the house and his nephew Jacob Aker who constructed the Greek revival portion. Also, several uninscribed and rough cut headstones, presumed to be graves of slaves, lie a few yards south of the Aker graves, as indicated on the attached plot map.

### Quarry

A quarry measuring 25' by 30' lies approximately 250 feet east of the house, along the former farm entrance road (D.G. Beers Atlas, 1877). Stone lining the quarry walls matches that of the springhouse, office and residence foundation. Differences in fissures found in the older structures from that of the Greek revival section indicate at least two periods of rock removal: earlier for foundations of the Federal portion of the house, the office and the springhouse and later for addition of the Greek revival section.

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### Statement of Significance

The Jacob Aker Farm District is a collection of features that are eligible under National Register Criterion C. The main residence is eligible because it embodies the distinct characteristics of a type and period of construction, within the context of **Federal and Greek Revival Architecture of Rural Bourbon County**. The circa 1810 to 1820 section of the house is a remarkably preserved member of the group of Bourbon County one-and-one-half story Federal houses that may be attributed to architect/builder John Giltner, and may be one of the earliest surviving members of his work. A grand two story Greek "L" was added in 1858 and became the main portion of the house. The farm's office building also reflects the simplicity of design prevalent in the Federal period. The farm's several antebellum features document the pattern of architectural and economic development in the county from rather elegant but simple Federal features to a more elaborate detail during a time of greater prosperity just prior to the Civil War.

The quarry, spring house and cemetery are eligible for inclusion as part of the Jacob Aker Farm District as they reflect the arrangement of domestic and work space of rural Bourbon County and contribute to our understanding of rural life and construction methods from circa 1810 to 1858, the period of architectural significance. The limestone used to construct the spring house and the foundations for the house and office derive from the adjacent quarry. The Aker family cemetery behind the house dates to years during the construction of portions of the house. As such, it helps define the domestic and architectural space of this grand country residence.

### FEDERAL AND GREEK ARCHITECTURE IN RURAL BOURBON COUNTY

Bourbon County, located in the Bluegrass region, was one of the earliest settled areas in the state. Most settlers came from Virginia, although both North Carolina and Pennsylvania contributed early settlers. Bourbon County was formed from part of Fayette County by the Virginia Legislature in 1785. Farming has traditionally provided the economic foundation of the county, as the land is exceptionally rich. Hemp, corn and wheat were the early cash crops,

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and in 1870 Bourbon was the largest cattle producing county in the state. The production of bourbon whiskey was also important historically to the county. (Langsam:13-14).

Survey and Registration of Bourbon County Architecture

In 1985 the Kentucky Heritage Commission, the State Historic Preservation Officer, undertook a survey of Bourbon County. That project resulted in the recording of over four hundred sites. Because of a change in the access route to the Jacob Aker Farm, surveyors were unable to find the entrance and did not view or document the property in that survey (Interview with W. G. Johnson, 1990). However, they were able to document a rich group of stylistically important houses in the county. Eighty-four Federal brick houses were documented, of which sixty-six were in rural environments. Sixty-one houses with influence of Greek revival styling, mostly of brick construction, were documented. This survey provides adequate perspective to make comparisons for purposes of evaluating the Jacob Aker Farm architecturally. Additional works such as Perrin's "History of Bourbon, Scott, Harrison and Nicholas Counties, Kentucky" (1882) help place the other structures on the farm into historical-architectural perspective.

Eleven sites in Bourbon County outside of cities or towns are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, as follows:

<u>Site number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Listing</u>
BB-132	Airy Castle (G.W. Bowen House)	11/7/76
BB-154	Albemarle (Allen-Alexander House)	7/24/75
BB-115	Colville Covered Bridge	12/30/74
BB-91	William David House	2/9/79
BB-399	Escondida	2/8/78
BB-502	The Grange	4/11/73
BB-304	Thomas Kennedy House	12/8/80
BB-136	Kiser Station	12/12/77
BB-366	Loudon Hall (Grimes House)	8/2/78
BB-504	Sacred Home (Robinson-Breckinridge)	8/9/79
BB-503	Captain James Wright House	8/8/76

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Information about the Aker family disclosed in a search of published literature and contemporaneous periodicals proved fairly limited (See attached bibliography). The name Jacob Aker is found on a list of Revolutionary War soldiers who died citizens of Bourbon County (Arderly: 20). A 1850 census shows the younger Aker, his mother, wife and three daughters resident of Bourbon county, and lists his occupation as farmer (Bourbon County Census: 10). Extensive information about the use of the farm is apparent from the contents of the Aker wills and testate documents found in the Bourbon County Courthouse (Aker: 442; Bourbon County Clerk: 234). The property appraisal performed to probate the younger Aker's will contains enough specific details of the farm's holdings to allow it to be seen as a major farm of the time. This status is in keeping with the quality of architectural design relative to other farms in the county; that is, the Aker farm embodies the characteristics of high quality design typical of successful antebellum Bourbon County farmsteads.

Development of Federal and Greek Architecture

The quiet refinement of the Federal style is characterized by a facade executed in finely laid Flemish bond brickwork with jackarches or flat arches over the openings. (Langsam: 17). The side and rear elevations of Bourbon County Federal houses were often executed in American bond with a header course every five rows, however, a few dwellings document Flemish bond brickwork on all walls. The majority of Federal houses in the county are of the central passage plan, are one-and-one-half stories, and are single pile in profile. Interior appointments include the use of chair railings, wallpresses, and elaborate panelled doors. Fifteen Federal houses were found in the Hutchison precinct in which the Aker Farm lies.

The majority of Federal houses adhere to a version of the two-story I house plan, particularly by use of one and a half story massing, however there are several representations of the Geometric phase of this style, characterized by flanking pavilions and more decorative woodwork. The Champ House (BB-204) and the Grange (BB-502) are outstanding examples of this latter style, featuring shallow curved walls pierced by palladian windows. Other Federal dwellings exhibiting the lateral extension include the Mason House

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(BB-105), the Thomas Garth House (BB-61), the Paris Howard House (BB-127) and Eden (BB-266).

One of the more important builder/architects in the area was John Giltner, and eight Federal Bourbon County houses have been attributed to him (Langsam: 20), including the Peter Smith House (BB-37), the Kenney House (BB-479), the George McLeod House (BB-516), the Giltner House (BB-450), Sugar Grove (BB-55) and Blooming Rose (BB-30). Born in Bourbon County, Giltner was raised on his father's farm in the Hutchison precinct, where the Aker farm lies. (Langsam: 20). Five houses attributed to him are in the Centerville precinct and three are in the Hutchison precinct. A majority are one-and-one-half story. Many features in houses attributed to him, discussed below, appear in the older portion of the Aker house. This leads to the belief he was the designer and/or builder.

Giltner's work was characterized by exceptionally fine Flemish bond brickwork, and an almost square entrance frame with semicircular fanlight or transom and raised skylights. Four of Giltner's houses feature transoms and four have fanlights. (Langsam: 20). The deep jackarches found at the McLeod House and Peter Smith house also characterize his work. (BB-522 and 37). Both full side Flemish bond brickwork and deep jackarches are found at the Aker House, along with the foundation remains of flanking square wings.

Giltner's houses have a central passage plan, and all are single pile except the Kenney House (BB-479). The Aker house shares these design features. Most have a symmetrical five-bay facade, except Blooming Rose (BB-30) which has a three bay facade. The floor outlines in the Aker house indicate it was also likely a three-bay facade, however one of the bays was removed during construction of the Greek revival portion of the house.

The Aker House compares favorably to other Giltner houses in the survey, and may reflect earlier work of this builder than previously identified. While lacking the lovely semicircular fanlight of several of the later houses, the quality of the Flemish brickwork and tall splayed jackarches like those found at the Giltner House (BB-450) Sugar Grove (BB-55) and the William McCreary Kenney House (BB-479) is outstanding. Very similar to the Peter Smith house (BB-37), the Aker house is one of a few Bourbon County Federal houses with Flemish bond brickwork on every wall, as are

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five of the Giltner houses (BB-479, 55, 516, 37, 450). The well-preserved woodwork on the interior features double walnut presses with fine beaded frames which flank the walnut mantle. The presses are very similar in design to those of Giltner's Sugar Grove (BB-55). The chair rail and graceful walnut staircase and railing contribute to the feeling of simple elegance characteristic of fine Federal work. Simple walnut panelled doors like those of Giltner's Peter Smith House (BB-37) complete the effect.

In 1858, when one bay of the Federal portion of the house was incorporated as the rear of a massive Greek revival styled expansion, the newer section became the front of the house. The Greek revival style is well represented in Bourbon County, with sixty-one Grecian style houses found during the survey. A greater concentration of them was located in the northern portions of the county; only nineteen were found in the southern half in the precincts of Little Rock, North Middletown, Clintonville and Hutchison. The predominant form is two story, central passage, single pile, equally divided between three and five bay facades.

In contrast to the grand antebellum architecture elsewhere in the Bluegrass, Greek revival residences in Bourbon County do not usually display the colossal porticos on even the most impressive dwellings. This may reflect a more conservative nature of the county's builders and designers during this era (Langsam: 21). The features seen most are the more subtle aspects of the style, such as single story entrances and pilasters.

Over two-thirds of the Greek revival houses in the county possess pilasters, a dominant feature. A one-story entrance porch was found on at least twelve houses in the survey, and polygonal wooden columns reflect a regional type found on several houses in Little Rock and N. Middletown Precincts, including the Hall House (BB-290).

Many of these houses have front doors on both the ground and second story levels. At least ten houses of the houses have rectangular sidelights and transoms surrounding the doors on both floors, including Elmwood Farm (BB-269), the Miller House (BB-199), and the Miller/McClintock House (BB-170), as does the Aker house.

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Interior appointments typical in the county's dwellings are bold door frames, mantles framed by columns, plaster chandelier medallions, and occasionally marbleized woodwork. The Aker house possesses all these characteristics of stylish decor. Shouldered architraves like those found at the Aker House are found at Mt. Lookout, the Stamps-Clay House and Woodbrook (BB-45, 60, 274).

The two-and-one-half story Greek portion of the Aker house compares favorably. The characteristic pilasters, central passage, single pile, and five bay appearance is found here, along with the side and transom lights on two floors. The home once had an elaborate porch, as indicated by a lightened outline in the brick. The former porch had four octagonal columns, two over two, supporting a two story, partial width porch which was destroyed in a storm. Bases found on the farm are also of octagonal shape, a feature repeated in the decorative mantle columns of all four fireplaces and the newel post of the interior. A feature unique to the Aker house is the original hand painted woodgraining found in the two major downstairs rooms: one of a dark mahogany appearance and the other resembling the lightest of blond maple inlay, with delicate knots and flaws skillfully painted.

In addition to the house there are two structures and two features reflecting the arrangement of living and working space by the Aker family in conjunction with the house, and constructed contemporaneously with the Federal and Greek sections. These features are integral to the rural life of Bourbon County, relate to the arrangement of domestic and farm space, and reveal the construction methods used during the period of significance. These factors all contribute to our understanding and appreciation of rural architectural design in antebellum Bourbon County.

The farm office is located southeast and below the main residence, oriented nearer the farm entrance as it was configured during the mid eighteen-hundreds. (D. G. Beers Atlas, 1877). The quarry is approximately 250 feet east of the house, along the farm entrance road. Limestone was presumably quarried here near the house, transported along the road, and used first during the construction of the Federal portion and office foundations and the walls of the springhouse. Later, the stone was quarried for the foundation of the Greek portion of the house and the exact match of

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the stone makes distinguishing older from newer foundation difficult. Close examination reveals spidery external fissures in the earlier quarried stone foundations and springhouse, characteristic of aging limestone (Interview with Miles Miller, Bourbon County stone mason, 1991). The springhouse lies below and south of the residence, in a low dip running east to west across the farm. The springhouse is located where the dip runs closest to the house.

A rural tradition of burial on farm premises (See, e.g. Perrin: 143) is documented on the Jacob Aker Farm. Seven Aker family members who died from 1841 to 1865 are buried in a cemetery some 350 feet north of the residence. These include the elder Jacob Aker, who presumably constructed the Federal portion of the house and his wife Margaret. His nephew Jacob Aker inherited the 1000 acre farm in 1841, and constructed the Greek section of the residence. (Aker: 442). Others buried there include four young daughters. Interestingly, there appear several uncut headstones in an area of the cemetery somewhat removed from the Aker family graves. It is believed that these headstones are graves of slaves identified by name in the Aker wills. Such provisions for slaves evidence a modicum of humane treatment for slaves when they outlived their productivity. For example, the will of the younger Aker provided a monthly payment from his estate for the lifetime of a slave named Pattie in the amount of \$100 per month, to ensure her upkeep (Bourbon County Clerk: 234). Since Pattie was left to the younger Aker by his uncle in 1841, it is presumed that Pattie was elderly and had no "value" as an asset of the estate, and the pension was left in recognition of her long service to the family. The farm remained in the hands of Aker descendants until 1973.

The Aker farm embodies the characteristics of high quality design seen in successful Bourbon county farmsteads. Both the earlier and later building campaigns reflect thoughtful design and use of local materials to achieve a finely crafted result.

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### Bibliography

Ardery, Kentucky Court and Other Records (1972).

Ardery, Mrs. W. B., Paris (Hopewell) Sesquicentennial (1939).

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Property  
Owners Page 1

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1. Clearwell Farm, a partnership  
795 Bethlehem Road  
Paris, Kentucky 40361

Partners: Theodore J. Berge  
Vanessa M. Berge  
David J. Fiske  
Martha Gilley

2. Roland Hadden  
1248 Clintonville Road  
Paris, Kentucky 40361

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

Jacob Aker Farm  
Bourbon County, KY

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### Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the nominated property is roughly a rectangle beginning at the eastern corner of the Clearwell Farm (Berge) property where it intersects with the Roland Hadden property, continuing west about 350' along the inner four plank fence, turning north and crossing the access road in line with the fence and following the fence line north about 500' and then east about 350' to the corner outside a cemetery, turning south with the fence line about 300' to a point twenty feet from the quarry, leaving the fence line and proceeding east around and ten feet east of the quarry and back to the fence line following the fence line fifteen feet to the point of beginning, as more particularly defined by a dotted line on the map labeled "Jacob Aker Farm".

### Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the main house, outbuildings, quarry and cemetery that historically have been a part of the Aker Farm. The area selected was a minimum acreage necessary to retain the rural nature of the district and encompass all features of the farm that maintain architectural integrity.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Photos Page 1

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### Photograph Identification

Same for all photographs:

Name of property: Aker, Jacob Farm

Photographer: William J. Macintire

Date of Photograph: 1992

Location of Property: 795 Bethlehem Road, (Bourbon County), Paris, Kentucky

Location of Negatives: Kentucky Heritage Council, 300 Washington, Frankfort, KY

Photo 1: Primary facade of the main residence  
view to north

Photo 2: Back sides of early portion (left) and 1858 addition (right)  
view to south

Photo 3: Front of early portion (ca. 1810) of main residence  
view to north-northwest

Photo 4: Same subject as photo 3  
view to west

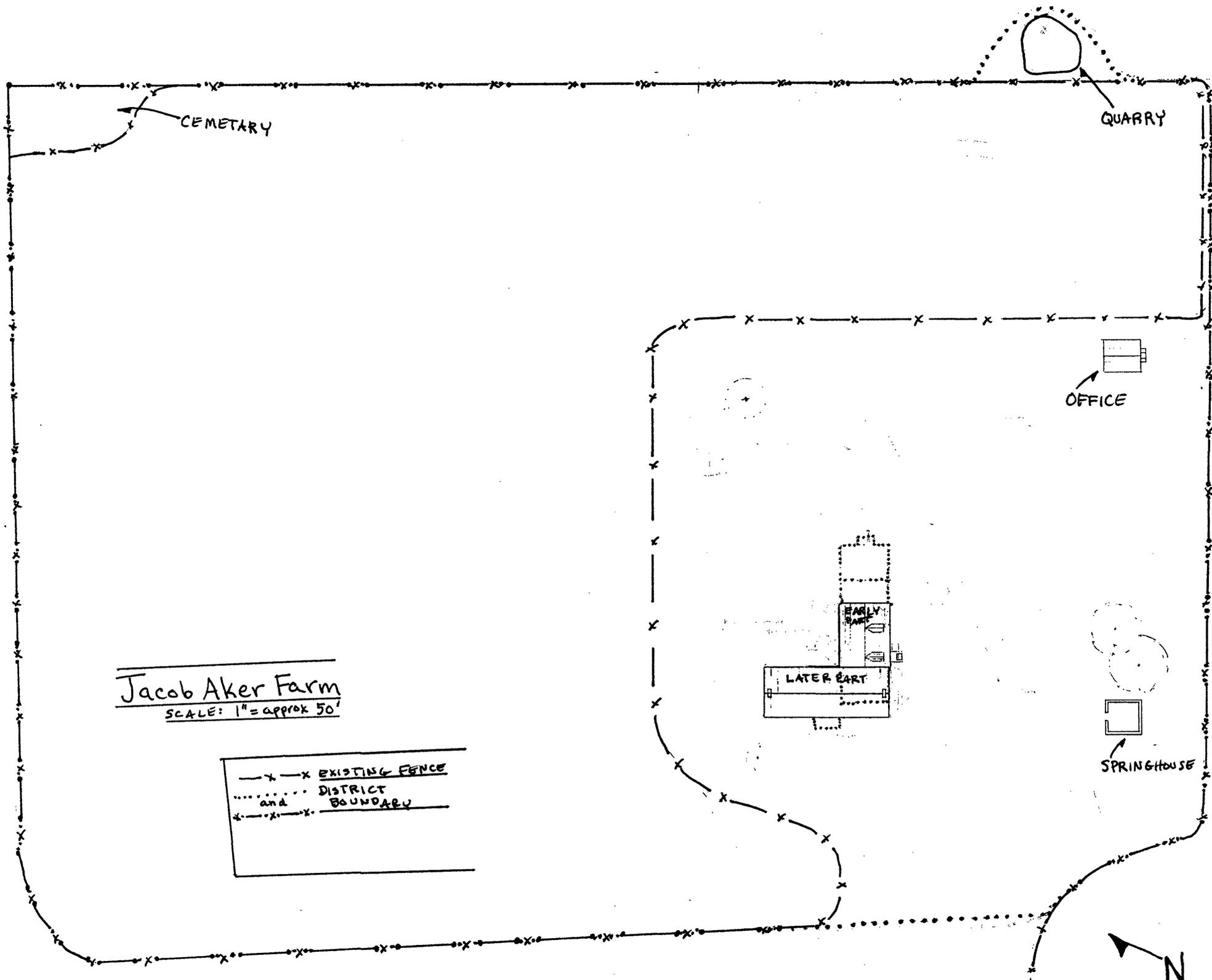
Photo 5: Primary facade of the main residence (ca. 1858 addition)  
view to east

Photo 6: Springhouse  
view to east

Photo 7: Office  
view to southeast

Photo 8: Office (same subject as photo 7)  
view to east

Sketch Map

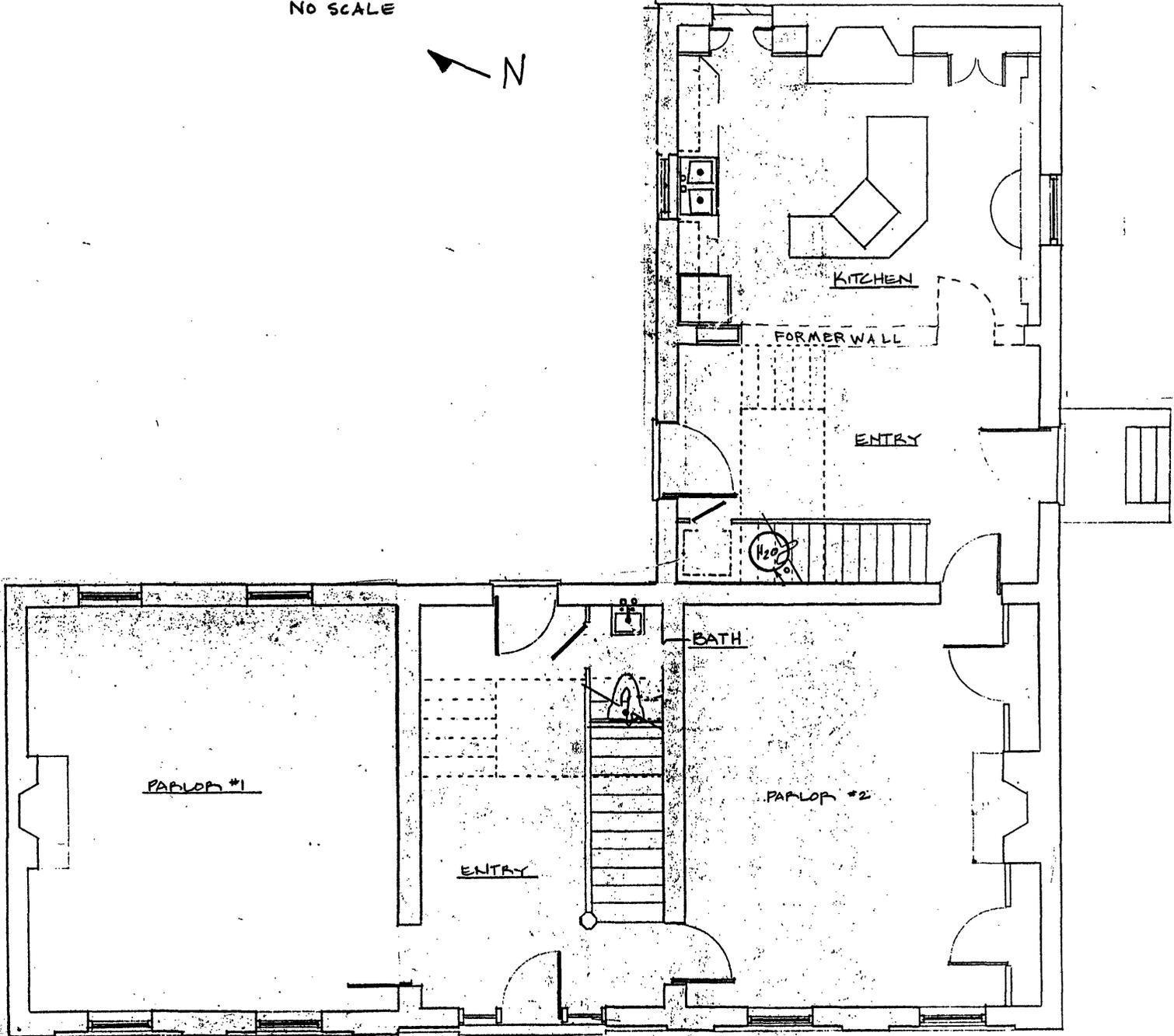
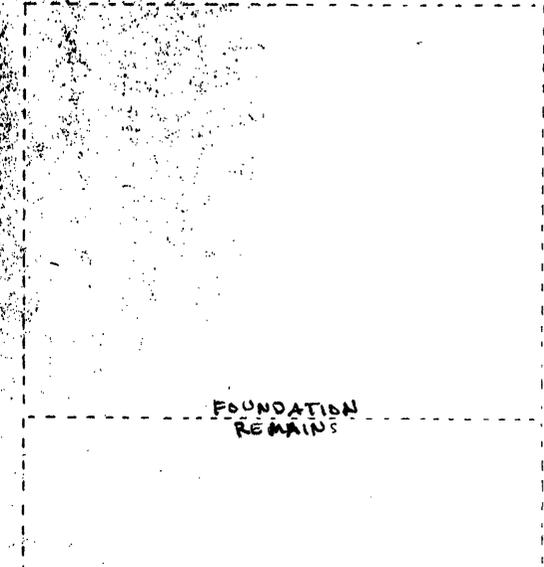
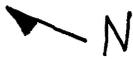


Jacob Aker Farm  
SCALE: 1" = approx 50'

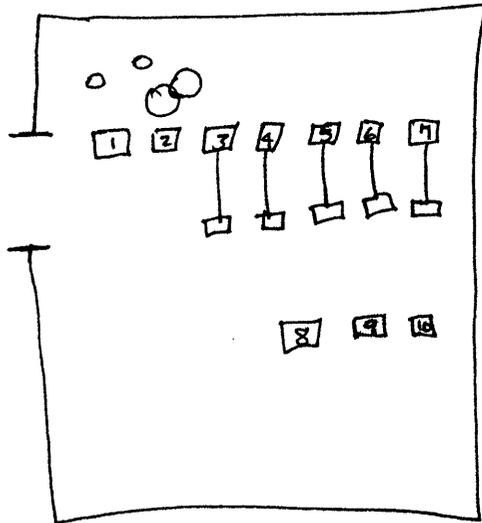
— x — x EXISTING FENCE  
..... DISTRICT  
and BOUNDARY  
— x — x



Jacob Aker Farm  
MAIN RESIDENCE  
NO SCALE



# Aker Cemetery



## Inscriptions of Headstones and footstones (□)

1. Rebecca L., Dau. of J. & R. Aker. Died April 18, 1865.  
Aged 16 yrs., 9 mo., & 20 ds.
2. Jacob Aker, Born Jan. 11, 1818. Died July 25, 1860.  
Aged 42 yrs, 6 mos., & 14 ds.
3. Emma, Dau. of J. & R. Aker. Born Apr. 3, 1851. Died Nov. 18, 1859.  
Aged 8 yrs, 7 mos. & 15 ds.  
□ - EMA
4. Susan, Dau. of Jacob & Rebecca Aker, Born Sep. 23, 1843. Died Nov. 28, 1855.  
□ - SA
5. Elizabeth, Dau. of Jacob & Rebecca Aker, Born Aug. 28, 1845. Died Feb. 27, 1846.  
□ - EMA
6. In memory of Jacob Aker who was born on Oct the 8<sup>th</sup>, 1775 (?)  
and departed this life April 20, 1841.  
□
7. Margaret Aker. Died Nov. 11, 1855. Aged 83 years.  
□ - MA
8. Illegible
9. Illegible
10. Illegible