



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name Froman-McCann Farm  
other names/site number Me-235

2. Location

street & number 532 Bailey Pike not for publication NA  
city or town Harrodsburg vicinity \_\_\_\_\_  
state Kentucky code 167 county Mercer zip code 40330

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant \_\_\_\_\_ nationally \_\_\_\_\_ statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

David L. Morgan 5-28-04  
Signature of certifying official David L. Morgan, SHPO 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.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

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

Daniel J. ... 7/27/04  
Signature of Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure
	<input type="checkbox"/> object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	sites
<u>2</u>	<u>    </u>	structures
<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	objects
<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing Historic Resources of Mercer County Kentucky

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC/ Single Dwelling  
AGRICULTURE/Outbuilding  
AGRICULTURE/Processing  
AGRICULTURE/Storage

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling  
AGRICULTURE/Outbuilding  
AGRICULTURE/Storage

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN/Italianate

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE/Limestone  
roof ASPHALT  
walls SYNTHETIC/Vinyl

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

See Continuation pg. 7-1

**Froman-McCann Farm, Mercer County, Kentucky**

**8. Statement of Significance**

Applicable National Register Criteria

- 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

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

Areas of Significance Agriculture

Period of Significance 1856-1899

Significant Dates NA

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) NA

Cultural Affiliation NA

Architect/Builder Unknown

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

See continuation pg. 8-1.

**9. Major Bibliographical References See continuation pg. 9-1.**

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

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

**Froman-McCann Farm, Mercer County, Kentucky**

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property 5.4

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

Boundary references begin at northwest corner of nominated area and proceed clockwise.

	Zone	Easting	Northing	
1	<u>16</u>	<u>695440</u>	<u>4182690</u>	<u>Harrodsburg Quad</u>

**See continuation pg. 10-1.**

Verbal Boundary Description **See continuation pg. 10-1.**

Boundary Justification **See continuation pg. 10-1.**

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Nancy O'Malley and Karen E. Hudson

organization University of Kentucky, Program for Archaeological Research

street & number 1020A Export Street telephone 859-257-1944

city or town Lexington state Kentucky zip code 40506

Property Owner

name Ralph Anderson

street & number 8752 Deep Run Lane

city or town Cincinnati state Ohio zip code 45243

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**Froman-McCann Farm**  
**Mercer County, Kentucky**

**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION**

The Froman-McCann Farm Complex (Figures 1 and 2) is located at the center of a large agricultural complex in rural Mercer County, approximately 1.5 miles from Harrodsburg, the county seat. The house stands at the end of a long drive that runs west from Bailey Pike. It is surrounded by open fields, historic and non-historic barns and outbuildings, rock fences, and a spring fed pond. During the 1870s, the farm contained over 730 acres. Today, it is part of the Anderson Circle farm that consists of 4832 acres. In addition to the house, a contributing meat house, a banked barn, a spring fed pond and stone fence as well as a non-contributing barn are located within the 5.4 acres that comprises the National Register boundary.

**House (contributing)**  
**Figure 2**

The Froman-McCann House (Me-235) is a log and frame, two-story, three-bay, central-passage plan home with Italianate embellishments. Its external appearance is that of a late 19<sup>th</sup> century Italianate farmhouse, but, like many houses in central Kentucky, its architecture has undergone a number of building phases. The earliest section of the house dates to the late 18<sup>th</sup> century when a single pen log structure with V-notching was built (Figure 1-A). This early building phase is still visible in the interior as the recent house restoration removed the plaster in the room and exposed the massive hand-hewn logs used in the construction. The house restoration also exposed mortar containing large quantities of animal hair mixed with the lime. In addition, it was apparent that the original front door was on the east wall and was later converted to a window.

In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, a second log pen was added, creating a dogtrot plan (Figure 1-B). In contrast to the earlier log pen, logs in the later pen are not as massive and exhibit hew marks that are different from those on the logs in the earlier section, suggesting that the logs were hewn by different people at different times. The lime mortar in the later log pen contained lesser quantities of fiber relative to lime content when compared to the mortar in the earlier pen. The two single pens are separated by an open passage. A common roof protects the open passage and links the three components. Doors to the two log pens open onto the passage, where stairs to the second floor are located. In the late 1850s, the house underwent a second remodeling transforming the traditional, open, dogtrot plan into a modern, up-to-date house, with a closed central passage and a rear ell. The closed central-passage was easily created by boarding up the open passage of the dogtrot (Figure 1-C).

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The ell was created by incorporating a separate single-pen kitchen (Figure 1-D) into the home via a hyphen (Figure 1-E).

The Froman house transformation did not end with the closing of the passage and the creation of a rear ell. By extending the central passage (Figure 1-F) and adding a room opposite the rear ell (Figure 1-G) it was transformed into a double-pile central-passage plan home. It was probably during this renovation that the Italianate embellishments—pedimented cross gable, hipped-roof central tower, trefoil openings, and bracketed cornice—were applied and the herringbone brick walk, edged with limestone, located at the front entrance, was constructed (Figure 2-F). Most of the surviving interior features also appear to date to this renovation as well: a straight-flight staircase with open stringer and turned balusters; Italianate style mantel; six-panel door with transom; baseboards; and hardwood floors.

The entire structure rests on a stone foundation. The roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles. The windows are late-19<sup>th</sup> century 2/2 double-hung sashes. The non-historic shutters are not operable. Several alterations have taken place after the period of significance. For example, the weatherboards were concealed behind aluminum siding; however, the aluminum is similar in width to the weatherboards and it was applied in a manner that preserved most of the historic materials, such as the brackets and trefoil openings. A two-car garage was added to the rear elevation (Figure 1-H) during the 1970s. The most significant features of this home, however, its form and the Italianate embellishment have been maintained. The non-historic alterations do not affect these features. As a result, the structure retains the integrity needed to convey its significance.

**Meat house (contributing)**

**Figure 2**

This rectangular shaped, gable-oriented structure with board-and-batten walls originally functioned as a meat house. It is constructed of sawn lumber and wire nails. The construction method and materials suggest that it was probably built during the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

**Corncrib/Stock Barn (noncontributing)**

**Figure 2**

This structure began as a side-drive corncrib. At a later date, a transverse-crib stock barn was appended at a right angle. Both units were constructed after the period of significance and thus do not contribute to the significance of the site.

**Gable-Entry Bank Barn (contributing)**

**Figure 2**

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This is a rare 19<sup>th</sup> century gable-entry bank barn. Unlike most bank barns, the entry to the second level lies athwart the hill with its long axis parallel to the slope. Such a location permits upslope entry to the second story through the gable, rather than from the long side, which is common in most bank barns. The basement entry is through the opposite gable and sides. The barn rests on a dry-laid stone foundation. The walls are clad with vertical plank siding. The nine-bent, three-bay barn is constructed out of sawn lumber and cut nails. Much of the original oak floor has survived. A run-in shed was appended to one side during the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century and two silos, one tile and one concrete, were constructed at the entrance during the 1930s. Finally, the height and pitch of the roof appears to have been altered during the twentieth century. Considering the rare form of this barn, the alterations do not hinder its ability to convey its significance.

**Rock Fences (contributing)**

**Figure 2**

A series of springs are located near the bank barn. As a result, during heavy rains, water gathers in the low-lying area. There are two small sections of 19<sup>th</sup> century rock fences associated with the springs. The rock fences were built across the water course of the spring system and included a water gap to allow for the flow of water. Murray-Wooley and Raitz (1992:57-58) documented that rock fences were sometimes built across drains or spring outlets as part of a larger fenced lot. The inclusion of a water gap allowed water to flow under the fence without damaging it but prevented the passage of livestock downstream while still allowing them access to water. Although the stone fences survive only as remnants, their location relative to the spring system suggests that they were part of a larger fenced area that allowed access to the local water source but also contained livestock within a specified area.

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### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Froman-McCann Farm (ME-235) is eligible for listing to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A as a well-preserved example of an agricultural complex that represents, through its architecture, adherence to nationally fashionable architectural style (Italianate), expression of agricultural prosperity and membership within the middle class rural elite. The historic context in which the farm complex can be placed is "Historic Agriculture in Mercer County, 1860-1900." Contributing elements to this nomination include a house, a bank barn, a meat house, and rock fences. The Froman-McCann house began as a late 18<sup>th</sup> century single-pen log house and evolved into a log dogtrot house before being finally transformed into its present appearance as a central-passage home with Italianate decorative features. Its building history and the addition of the other contributing buildings and structures culminated by the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century in the domestic and agricultural complex included within this nomination. As a well preserved domestic and agricultural complex, it can be read as architecturally symbolic of social, economic and cultural trends that took place in Mercer County and Central Kentucky with respect to the local social class system, participation in national trends of architectural expression, expression of agricultural prosperity and projection of public image. The period of significance for this nomination begins in 1856 when the McCann family acquired the property and began making major architectural changes and ends by 1899 when all of the contributing buildings and structures had been built, the property passed out of the McCann family and the era of modern agriculture was shortly to begin. This time period brackets that portion of American history from the antebellum days of slavery through the Civil War and Reconstruction to the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Historical events and agricultural trends occurring at the local and national levels during this time form the context within which this nomination is couched.

The history of the Froman-McCann property begins with Jacob Hite Froman, who was born in Frederick County, Virginia in 1749 and served as a private in the Revolutionary War. His military service entitled him to claim land in Kentucky. Froman settled in Kentucky prior to 1783. He was active in civic affairs and was a successful businessman. He served as a member of the Constitutional Convention, held in Danville in 1792 that formed the first constitution under which Kentucky was governed as a state. He also collaborated with John Mosby in the construction of Mercer County's first courthouse in 1787-1789 (Mercer County Order Book 1:385).

Froman was active in acquiring land in Kentucky by virtue of his own military service, as well as by purchasing it from others. He eventually amassed thousands of acres in what is today Mercer, Bullitt, Nelson, and Shelby Counties. Froman was granted a 400-acre settlement tract on the waters of Shawnee Run in present Mercer County on October 20, 1783 (Virginia



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Survey Book 2:340-342). Soon after, he established his residence (referred to as Froman's station) on the Shawnee Run tract that served as his home base. In an 1840s interview with the Reverend John Dabney Shane, Jacob Stevens stated that Froman's Station was located about one mile from Mathias Yocum's station (Draper mss 12CC138), which places it within the property being nominated. A chain of title for the extant Froman-McCann house reveals an ownership history leading directly to Jacob Froman and other accounts confirm his residence on the property (O'Malley 1987:255).

A station was a type of residential site common during Kentucky's early settlement, in the last quarter of the eighteenth century. Descriptions of a station in its classic form emphasized log construction and the inclusion of defensible features such a stockaded enclosure of log cabins. Stations constructed after the conclusion of the Revolutionary War when the Indian threat in Central Kentucky was much reduced tended to eliminate stockading from their site plans but often continued to include defensive features such as rifle ports, and doors that could be barricaded. Jacob Froman's station fell within this later style of log structure.

Most of the stations, particularly those built before the end of the Revolutionary War, were only temporary residences, and their occupants put relatively little effort into solid construction designed to last. Cabin logs were frequently green, with the bark left on, which caused warping and invited insects; structural walls were not always chinked; chimneys were usually built of stick and mud daub, without a stone base. There is evidence, however, that pioneers made a distinction between log "cabins" and log "houses" (Mcintire 1998:5-7). While log "cabins" were built quickly and were not meant for long-term occupation, log "houses" were considered more permanent structures and more care was used in their construction. The construction methods and materials employed in the log pen on the south side of the Froman house (Figure 1-A), large hewn timbers and substantial chinking, indicate that it was an example of what pioneers referred to as a log "house." The chinking in this log section also contained larger quantities of hair or fibers in relation to the lime content of the north pen. These architectural features, along with archival evidence, support the conclusion that the south pen was the first unit of the extant Froman-McCann house constructed and that it represents Froman's station. Jacob Froman and his wife Barbara first occupied the house with five children and had four more children during their time there. Although the interior exhibits exposed logs, the exterior view of the original log pen is obscured by later architectural additions and modifications; therefore, this aspect of the property's architectural history is not included within the argument for significance. Nevertheless, it is included as part of the building history in order that the evolution of the property to its present form can be better understood.

By 1802 Froman and his large family were living in Woodford County. In 1808, he sold 200 acres of his Mercer County property to Jesse Robards (Mercer County Deed Book 7:66). The

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deed indicated that Robards was already living on the land and that Froman and his family had formerly lived there. The expansion of Froman's single-pen home into a two-story dogtrot plan structure (Figure 1-B) occurred as a single building phase and may have been done by Froman to accommodate his growing family. Alternatively, Jesse Robards, who had a household that contained 12 people, may have enlarged the house. Robards was carrying debt when he bought the property and acquired more during his tenure there so Froman, who appears to have been more financially solvent, is probably the more likely candidate to have enlarged the house.

In 1811, Robards sold the Froman property to John Voris (Mercer County Deed Book 8:76). It appears that Voris bought the land intending to move his family there but instead gave the property to the Shakers when he formally joined the society at nearby Pleasant Hill. The Shaker journals of Shaker Hill mention the acquisition of the property in an entry dated January 1, 1811.

John Voris bought a piece of land at Froman's Station about 5 miles South of this place [Pleasant Hill]; Early this spring the East Family made preparation to raise a crop of corn on it, accordingly Benjamin Burnet, Tobias Wilhite, David Harris and James L. Balance mov'd up there in a little old cabin and rais'd a crop of corn; We would come home on Saturday nights....

In 1811 when the Shaker entry was made, the Froman log house was referred to as a "little old cabbin." By this time, the distinction between log cabins and log houses, previously described, had been largely lost. Substantial stone and brick houses were becoming increasingly more common, placing log dwellings in a distinctly inferior position with regards to architectural status. In fact, the Shakers had already begun to construct stone structures at their permanent village at Pleasant Hill, approximately five miles north of the Froman property. The Shakers only owned the Froman property for six years. It doesn't appear that any of the structural or ornamental changes made to the Froman house date to the period of the Shaker occupation.

The Shakers sold the property to James Worthington in 1817 (Mercer County Deed Book 10:398). Worthington owned the property until 1840. It doesn't appear that any of the surviving resources were built or altered during Worthington's occupation. The Worthington heirs sold the farm to Abraham Smith in 1840. Smith's daughter, Joanna, married Joseph McCann in 1844 (Mercer County Marriage Book 2; 120).

Joseph Milton McCann purchased the Froman property from his father-in-law in 1856 by which time a total of 718 acres had been consolidated by various separate purchases into a single farm. The McCanns invested \$35,900.00 in the purchase of the property and, as a young

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couple of good background and ambition, appeared poised to take their place in local Mercer society as middle class farmers with considerable property, slaves and a promising future. Although their prosperity was cut short by the death of Joseph McCann and the erosion of the estate he left behind by the abolition of slavery, the farm's current surviving historic elements speak to their prosperity when it was at its height. Archival and architectural evidence suggest that at the time of the McCann acquisition, the house had the appearance of a modest, dogtrot plan house. There was probably a detached kitchen behind the house. It appears to have been Joseph and Joanna McCann who transformed the home into a double-pile central-passage plan Italianate structure, built the bank barn, meat house and other outbuildings that are mentioned in the archival evidence but do not survive as above ground features, and installed stone fencing. All of these improvements reflect both a considerable amount of money invested in the property as well as suggest that the McCanns considered themselves among the social elite. The major architectural modifications and additions were part of purposeful development of the farm as a prosperous agricultural operation based on slave labor, and a diversified base of livestock and crops, following a familiar economic pattern in Mercer County and central Kentucky.

The closed passage of the popular central plan house helped solve space and privacy problems inherent in many traditional homes. Riesenweber has suggested that the separation of work and leisure and public and private activities became so desirable that, beginning in the 1830s, many owners of small open-plan houses, such as dogtrots, sought ways to create extra space. The closed central-passage was easily created by boarding up the open passage of the dogtrot (Figure 1-C). In fact, most surviving dogtrot houses in Kentucky have been closed so that only the varying thickness of the walls reveals the original, open, dogtrot form. Another way to partition space was to build a rear wing that provided one or two additional spaces for household work, creating a three- or four-room house. Riesenweber found that the closed passage and the extra spaces provided by the rear ell were so popular in Kentucky that by 1850 the house type built more often than any other was a two-story, central-passage plan with a rear ell, either one or two stories high (Riesenweber 1992:255). It is not always necessary for the owner of a traditional 18<sup>th</sup> century house to begin anew, however. Kentuckians often chose to transform their small, open-plan homes into modern, up-to-date edifices. As a result, many of Kentucky's settlement-period homes were altered during the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century to conform to this ideal. This was the solution chosen by Joseph and Joanna McCann.

Riesenweber suggests that between 1780 and 1820, the wealthiest Kentuckians constructed separate kitchen buildings for cooking and other heavy household work (Riesenweber 1992:254). These buildings, usually small, one or two room structures, were typically located near the back door of the home. The form, location, construction method and material employed in the small one-room unit located at the back of the Froman-McCann house (Figure 1-D) suggest that it began as a separate kitchen as described by Riesenweber. When rear ells became the rage during the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century many separate kitchens were incorporated in the

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wings through a hyphen that connected them to the home. Such is the case of the Froman-McCann house (Figure 1-E).

The house transformation did not end with the closing of the passage and the creation of a rear ell. There were two types of central-passage plan homes popular in 19<sup>th</sup> century Kentucky. One, a single-pile form, had one room located on each side of the passage. The second, a double-pile plan, had two rooms on each side of the passage. By extending the central passage (Figure 1-F) and adding a room opposite the rear ell (Figure 1-G), the Froman-McCann home was transformed into a double-pile central-passage plan house. It was probably during this renovation that the Italianate embellishments—pedimented cross gable, hipped-roof central tower, trefoil openings, and bracketed cornice—were applied to the exterior. In their survey of American architecture, the McAlesters found that while the Italianate style dominated house construction between 1850 and 1880, only about 15 percent had a square tower such as the one found on the Froman-McCann house (McAlester 1984:211-212).

The transformation of the Froman house probably occurred soon after the McCanns obtained ownership in 1856. Documentary evidence indicates that Joseph McCann died by 1862 (when his will was probated) (Mercer County Will Book 17:418), and more likely around 1860 when his wife Joanna was censused as head of a household that included her two teenage sons, Abraham Smith and Joseph McCann, and a teenage girl named Virginia Smith who probably was a niece (U.S. Census Bureau 1860). Joanna's occupation was listed as "Lady" in the census, a clear indication of her perceived social status. The same census listed Joanna McCann as owner of 29 slaves. There were 574 slaveholders in Mercer County in 1860 of whom only 21 had more than 20 slaves. Also living on the property in a separate dwelling was her overseer, James Asher, along with three related women, two of whom were a weaver and seamstress. The property's value was estimated at \$58,000 and Joanna's personal estate value was \$26,600. The real and personal values were quite high and the real estate value, in particular, increased by over \$22,000 from the initial purchase price. These data reinforce the conclusion that the McCanns were among the social elite.

The 1860 census coincided with the year of Joseph McCann's death, which may explain why his agricultural statistics were not reported as a separate entry. Joanna McCann was listed in the population census returns but not in the agricultural census even though she employed an overseer to run her farm. It is possible that the output of her farm was included with her father's statistics. Abraham Smith was one of the largest farm operators in the county with 1120 improved acres worth \$68,000. He owned \$800.00 worth of farming machinery, suggesting that he was using sophisticated cultivation and harvesting equipment. In 1860, he reported 18 horses, 25 dairy cows, 40 oxen, 20 other cows, 100 sheep, and 150 swine valued at a total of \$7760.00. He raised large quantities of grains, including 2100 bushels of wheat, 15,000 bushels of Indian corn and 400 bushels of oats. Other agricultural products included 8

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bushels of peas or beans, 10 bushels of Irish potatoes, 10 bushels of sweet potatoes, 300 pounds of butter, 20 tons of hay, 5 bushels of clover seed, 1 bushel of hops, 5 gallons of molasses and 100 pounds of honey.

Even after her husband's death, Joanna McCann continued to maintain the farm as a large, slave-run establishment for several years although the abolition of slavery and other economic setbacks eventually forced her to sell her property to her sister and brother-in-law in 1879 and move to Lexington. Agricultural statistics for 1870 provide ample evidence of Joanna McCann's status as an agriculturalist. Out of 860 censused farms in Mercer County, only six were comprised of more than 500 acres of improved land. The McCann farm was the third largest farm in the county. The agricultural census entry for Joanna McCann, assisted by her son, Smith McCann, indicates that she was heavily invested in raising livestock--20 horses, 12 dairy cattle, 100 other cattle, 140 swine and six sheep at a combined value of \$4500.00. She reported 4000 bushels of winter wheat, 10 bushels of spring wheat, 4000 bushels of Indian corn, 400 bushels of oats, 300 bushels of buckwheat, and 5 tons of hay. Garden produce included 5 pounds of peas or beans, 30 bushels of Irish potatoes, and 50 bushels of sweet potatoes at a market value of \$100.00. She also produced 100 gallons of wine and 150 pounds of butter. Livestock slaughtered or sold for slaughter brought \$445. The total annual value of all her farm products was \$1140.00.

Compared to the five other farmers who owned more than 500 acres in the county (see following table), Mrs. McCann's acreage was exceeded only by Bryant & Shaw and A.G. Kyle. Bryant & Shaw was clearly a large-scale commercial farming business that eclipsed all other county agriculturalists. Comparing McCann to the other four, she owned more land, all improved, than three of them, and more highly valued farming machinery, perhaps an indication of greater use of mechanized farming equipment such as cultivators, harrows, or threshers. Her investment in livestock focused largely on cattle, both dairy and meat, and swine, with a more modest interest in horses (although still greater than three out of the five farmers in her wealth status class). She raised more swine than any of the other five farmers as well as more cattle. Her lack of involvement in the jackass and sheep trade set her apart from two of her peers. The county trade in jackasses was not great in 1870 but sheep production was second only to swine so it is intriguing that McCann was not involved in raising sheep. She may have preferred to raise animals that were less trouble and hardier. Total value of all her livestock was quite high, second only to R.A. Grimes and Bryant & Shaw, suggesting that she raised better bred livestock. The relatively low value of livestock slaughtered may be due to her raising feeder calves that were shipped north to the feed lots of Ohio to be fattened for market, a common strategy in the last quarter of the nineteenth century in Kentucky as the center of the livestock market moved closer to the packinghouses of Chicago and points west.

The massive quantities of corn and winter wheat that she raised eclipsed her four

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Table 1. Comparative Agricultural Statistics for Large Landowners in Mercer County in 1870.

Census categories	Bryant & Shaw	A. G. Kyle	James E. Thompson	Dr. William Campbell	R. A. Grimes	Joanna McCann
Improved land (acres)	4200	1015	635	507	534	830
Woodland (acres)	1000	None	100	None	None	None
Other unimproved land (acres)	1000	None	None	None	None	None
Cash value of farm	\$356,000	\$50,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$20,000	\$58,000
Cash value of farming machinery	\$5000	None	\$300	\$100	\$250	\$400
Total wages paid	\$8000	\$1000	\$1500	\$1500	\$2000	\$1500
No. of horses	43	20	6	12	3	20
No. of mules/asses	15	28	None	1	85	None
No. of milch cows	104	12	4	6	6	12
No. of working oxen	10	4	None	None	2	None
No. of other cattle	254	10	None	6	10	100
No. of sheep	788	70	15	46	26	6
No. of swine	None	99	40	70	40	140
Value of all livestock	\$38,100	\$3850	\$985	\$1700	\$11,000	\$9500
Spring wheat						10
Winter wheat (bu.)	3710	300	None	650	800	4000
Rye (bu.)	400	None	None	None	500	None
Buckwheat (bu.)						300
Indian corn (bu.)	7530	1500	None	1500	2000	4000
Oats (bu.)	3880	200	None	None	400	400
Wool (lbs.)	2584	260	None	200	140	None
Peas and beans (bu.)	150	None	2	None	None	5
Irish potatoes (bu.)	1700	None	15	100	None	30
Sweet potatoes (bu.)	None	None	None	10	None	50
Value of orchard products	None	None	None	300	None	\$100
Wine (gal.)	None	None	None	None	10	100
Butter (lbs.)	3000	250	100	250	250	150
Hay (tons)	146	40	None	2	5	5
Clover seed (bu.)	None	20	None	None	None	None
Silk cocoons (lbs.)	50	None	None	None	None	None
Molasses (gal.)	None	None	80	None	None	None
Beeswax (lbs.)	200	None	None	None	None	None
Value of home manufactures	\$6000	None	None	None	None	None
Value of animals for slaughter	\$1900	\$900	\$40	\$600	\$750	\$445
Value of all farm products	\$20,000	\$2600	\$340	\$1935	\$2220	\$1140

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contemporaries and was in excess of what she needed for consumption by her livestock; she may have been providing the local milling market with grain to grind for commercial sale. An interesting statistic is found in the amount of wine she produced, ten times greater quantities than R. A. Grimes who was the only other farmer producing wine. Despite her twelve dairy cows, she only produced 150 lbs of butter, compared to much larger quantities produced by R. A. Grimes and Dr. William Campbell with half as many cows. Nevertheless, she still produced quite a large quantity that could be sold at market.

Placed in county perspective, 1870 statistics for Mercer County indicate that livestock production focused on, in ascending order, swine, sheep, horses, other cattle, milk cows, mules and oxen. For the most part, Joanna McCann was firmly in the agricultural mainstream with regard to her farm output.

A meat house, rock walls and a rare bank barn are included in the Froman-McCann Farm National Register nomination. The Froman-McCann house has never stood in isolation. It has always been located at the center of a large agricultural operation and thus has been surrounded by numerous barns and outbuildings. The central location of the house relative to the farm buildings and agricultural acreage was a common attribute of "progressive" farms that stressed efficiency, supervision of labor and productivity. The deed filed in 1879 when Joanna McCann's brother-in-law, John Cassel purchased the property, makes reference to a house, an icehouse, cabins and "other buildings" (Mercer County Commissioner's Deed Book I:56-57). The National Register boundary was drawn to incorporate the buildings and structures that survive from the period of significance—the house, meat house, bank barn, rock walls and spring system. These resources contribute to the significance of the Froman-McCann farm complex because they provide physical evidence that help us understand the property's historic function.

According to Riesenweber, Kentuckians rarely constructed outbuildings before 1830. By 1840, however, she suggests that almost all farmers had a springhouse, a cellar, a smokehouse/meat house and a barn for storing hay and grains (Riesenweber 1992:254, 256). Kennedy and Macintire noted that icehouses, structures built to store large quantities of ice over the spring and summer seasons, were only common on Kentucky's wealthiest farms (Kennedy and Macintire 1999:17). The structure was usually topped by a conical roof covered with wood shingles. Although the actual practice probably varied, the floor was first blanketed in sawdust or straw. Then ice, gathered from frozen ponds or waterways, was loaded into the house. When the house was full, another layer of sawdust or straw was placed on top of the ice. The ice, which melted together to form a mass, was chipped away for use in drinks, food and for medical purposes (Kennedy and McIntire 1999:17). Like most Kentucky icehouses, the above ground portion of the Froman-McCann icehouse does not survive. However, examination of the south yard immediately next to the kitchen revealed a filled circular feature

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that probably is the location of the icehouse. Just east of this feature is a filled-in cistern that once provided the household's water.

The large size of the McCann farm (700+ acres) and the number of slaves all point to considerable social and economic standing within the local antebellum rural economy. Considering the size of McCann's slaveholdings, it is likely that the farm contained a number of slave quarters. It is also probable that it was slave quarters to which the 1879 deed referred to as "cabins." Though none have survived, it is possible that their locations may be determined through archaeology in the future.

Another building that was likely built by the McCanns around the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century is the bank barn (Figure 2D). Bank barns were designed to serve multiple purposes. They are called bank barns because they are built into the side of a hill or slope so that both the upper and lower levels can be easily accessed. This form is most common in Pennsylvania and the mid-Atlantic. Immigrants from these regions probably brought it to Kentucky, but this barn type has always been scarce in Kentucky (Montell and Morse 1976:78). All of the bank barns that have been documented in Kentucky have the entrance to the second level through the side or eave end of the barn and the entrance to the first level through the gable or short end of the structure. The Froman-McCann barn is unlike any previously recorded barn in the state. In this case, the entry lies athwart the hill with its long axis parallel to the slope. Such a location permits upslope entry to the second story through the gable, rather than from the eave side. This is the only example of this barn type that has been identified in Kentucky. This barn was used for livestock and storage of hay and/or feed. During the McCann's tenure on the property, shorthorn cattle, mules, hogs, hemp and various grains were the mainstays of a diversified agricultural strategy common in antebellum 19<sup>th</sup> century Kentucky (Harrison and Klotter 1997:137-138).

Prosperous farmers operating on the scale of the McCanns participated in local and state agricultural societies, improved their livestock through careful breeding, and profited from trade with the Deep South and other market areas. A successful agricultural strategy that apportioned available labor to a diversity of livestock and crops according to the demands of the marketplace resulted in profit and wealth that fueled the maintenance of a prosperous middle class lifestyle complete with social calls and other entertainments in stylish parlors. The Froman-McCann house exuded this *bonhomie* and prosperity by its solidity and size, its prominent tower, and attractive herringbone walk leading from the drive where a stone step was installed to aid ladies in alighting from their buggies. Clustered around the house was further evidence of prosperity in the form of the large bank barn, subsidiary buildings associated with the domestic pursuits of the household, and undoubtedly a line of neat cabins for the slave labor.



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A series of springs are located near the bank barn. As a result, during heavy rains, water gathers in the low-lying area. There are two small sections of 19<sup>th</sup> century rock fences associated with the springs (Figure 2E). The fence straddles the waterway and is punctuated by a water gap to allow for release of water during times of heavy rain. The rock fences would have been originally incorporated within rail fences in the area that commonly flooded. The rock fences would have withheld the flow of the water, unlike the rail fence. Though the rail fence is no longer extant, due to its location and construction method and material, including the presence of the water gap, the rock fence sections are still able to convey their significance. The stone fences served to impound the water for more reliable storage of available water supply and contributed to the efficiency of the agricultural operation by providing water access to livestock but retaining them within proscribed areas. Rock fences not only served important functions on the farm but also were solid and permanent reminders of the financial ability of the farmer to afford their construction and maintenance expense since they had to be built by stonemasons trained to the task.

The death of Joseph McCann and the abolition of slavery marked the beginning of a downturn in the McCann family fortunes. However, the decline did not happen all at once. In 1860, Joanna is listed in the federal census with the occupation of "Lady" and a substantial estate of \$58,000 and \$26,900 in real and personal value respectively. Her husband is not listed in this census and may have already died though his estate was not settled until 1862. She employed an overseer, a seamstress, and a weaver, who were all members of the same family, and who lived in a separate dwelling on the farm. Her two sons, and another female relative (also living with her) all attended school. Despite her husband's death and the loss of her slaves, she seemed to have been able to retain her prosperity even as late as 1870 when her real and personal value was censused at \$58,000 and \$20,000, respectively. By this time, her sons were grown and able to help her maintain the farm, and she had taken in her sister and mother who each had modest fortunes of their own. Thus, despite financial setbacks, Joanna McCann was able to maintain her social stature from the standpoint of her public image as conveyed by her fashionable house and well appointed farm. It was not until 1879 that she sold her house and the remainder of her farm to a man who later became her brother-in-law, John L. Cassel. Joanna and her son, Abraham Smith McCann, her mother, and another female relative, moved to Lexington, where they were censused in 1880.

John Cassel owned the farm until 1899 and probably was the one who built or refurbished the meat house. Otherwise, he seems to have simply maintained the farm as his sister-in-law left it. Subsequently, later owners added modern agricultural buildings and made other modifications that do not contribute to this nomination.

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**UTM REFERENCES**

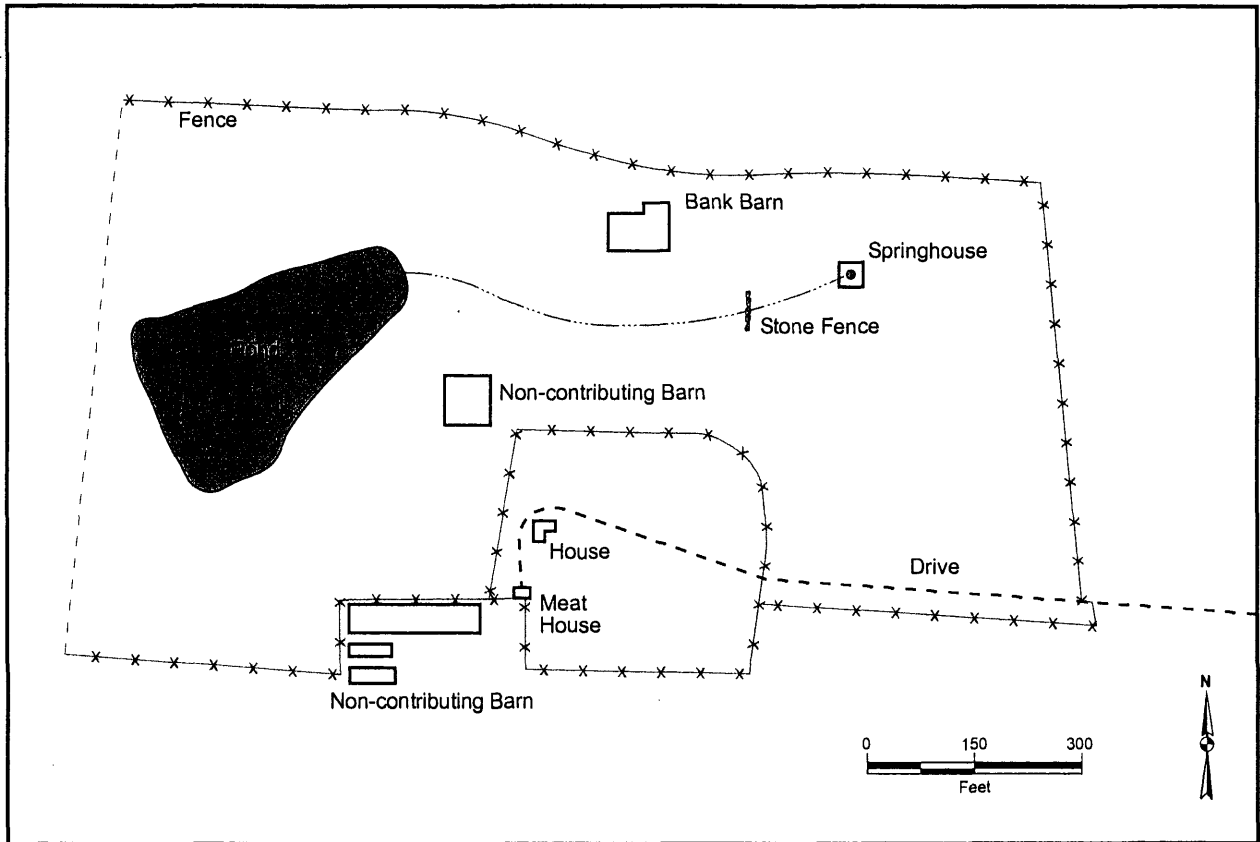
	Zone	Easting	Northing
5	<u>16</u>	<u>695407</u>	<u>4182665</u>
6	<u>16</u>	<u>695232</u>	<u>4182653</u>

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The National Register boundary of the Froman-McCann Farm is shown on the accompanying map entitled "Figure 2." The proposed boundary follows existing fence lines that enclose all the contributing elements as well as the driveway approach to the house from Bailey Pike. Only the western boundary is not fenced but is a line drawn to include the spring-fed pond. The house and meat house are enclosed by additional fencing indicated on Figure 2. However, the boundary for the farm complex as nominated is the outermost perimeter represented by fencing on the northern, eastern and southern sides and an imaginary line on the western side.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The area chosen for listing in the National Register is the area that retains buildings and structures associated with the period of significance that retain integrity. Cultural and natural features were used to determine the boundaries. The boundary includes part of the long driveway approach that is considered an important element of the visual impression the building complex conveys. The northern, eastern and southern boundaries are marked by existing fence lines that historically enclosed the house lot and adjacent agricultural buildings. The western boundary is an imaginary line drawn to include the spring-fed pond. Excluded are non-contributing modern agricultural buildings that stand along the south line of the boundary since these buildings are not associated with the period of significance.



**Figure 2. Froman-McCann Farm Complex in Mercer County, Kentucky.**

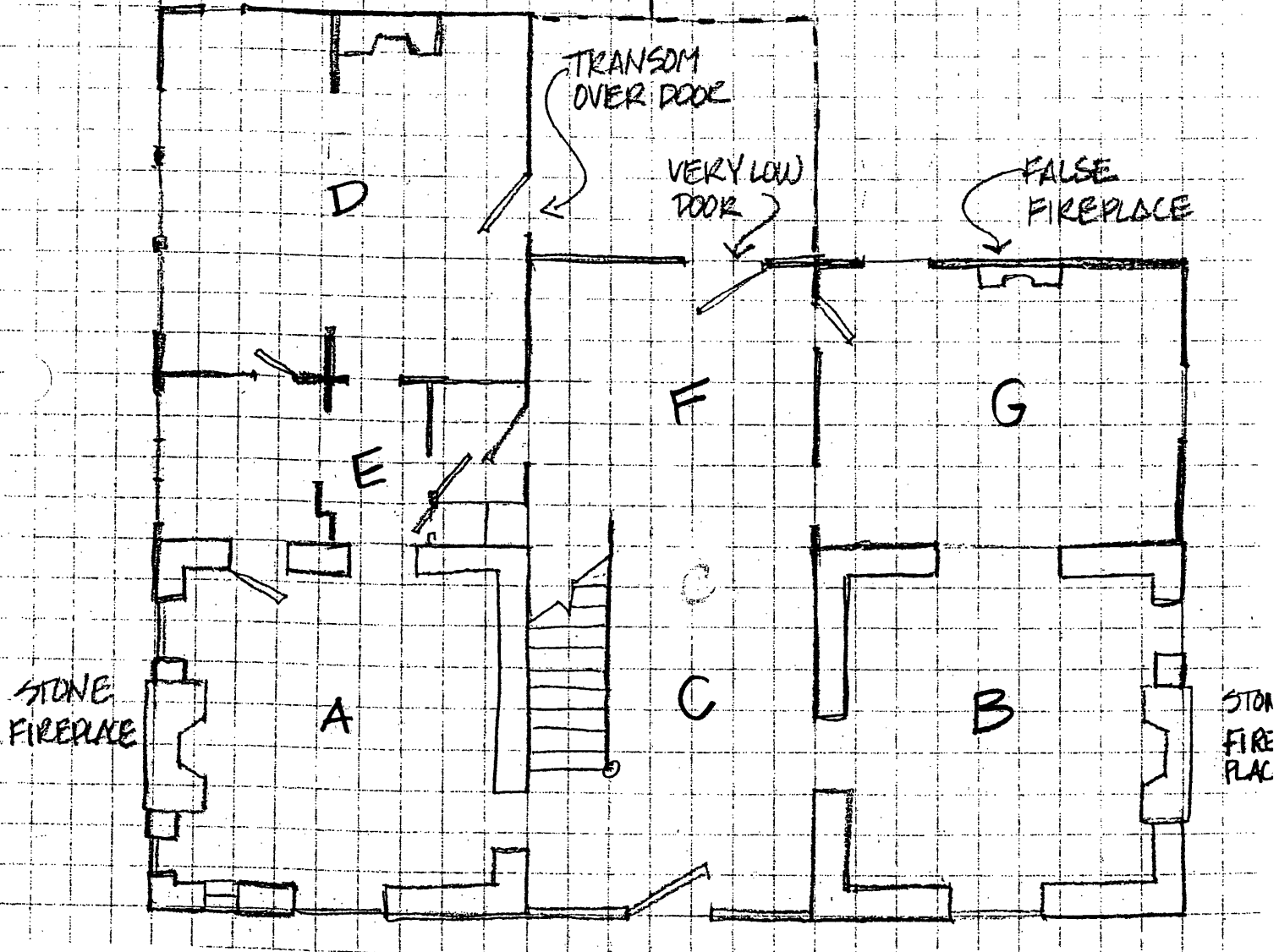
The area proposed for listing is part of a larger farm, identified in the Mercer County Property Valuation Assessor Office as 067.00-00-030.00. The proposed boundary for listing is delimited by fences on the North, South, and East side, and by the dashed line on this map on the west.

H  
GARAGE  
1990s ADDITION

FROMAN-McCANN HOUSE  
MERCER COUNTY, KY  
FIGURE 1

(NOT TO SCALE)

Adapted from KHC Survey Form  
ME-235 Kennedy + Jennemann



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**PHOTOGRAPHS**

Photo 1  
Karen E. Hudson  
November 2000  
Kentucky Heritage Council  
Façade of Froman-McCann House

Photo 2  
Karen E. Hudson  
November 2000  
Kentucky Heritage Council  
Gable-entry banked barn and silos

Photo 3  
Karen E. Hudson  
November 2000  
Kentucky Heritage Council  
Rock fence

Photo 4  
Karen E. Hudson  
November 2000  
Meat house